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J. M. Weston,

J. M. Weston, Secretary

NEW YORK
The Knickerbocker Press
1929



DOCUMENTS AND ADDRESSES

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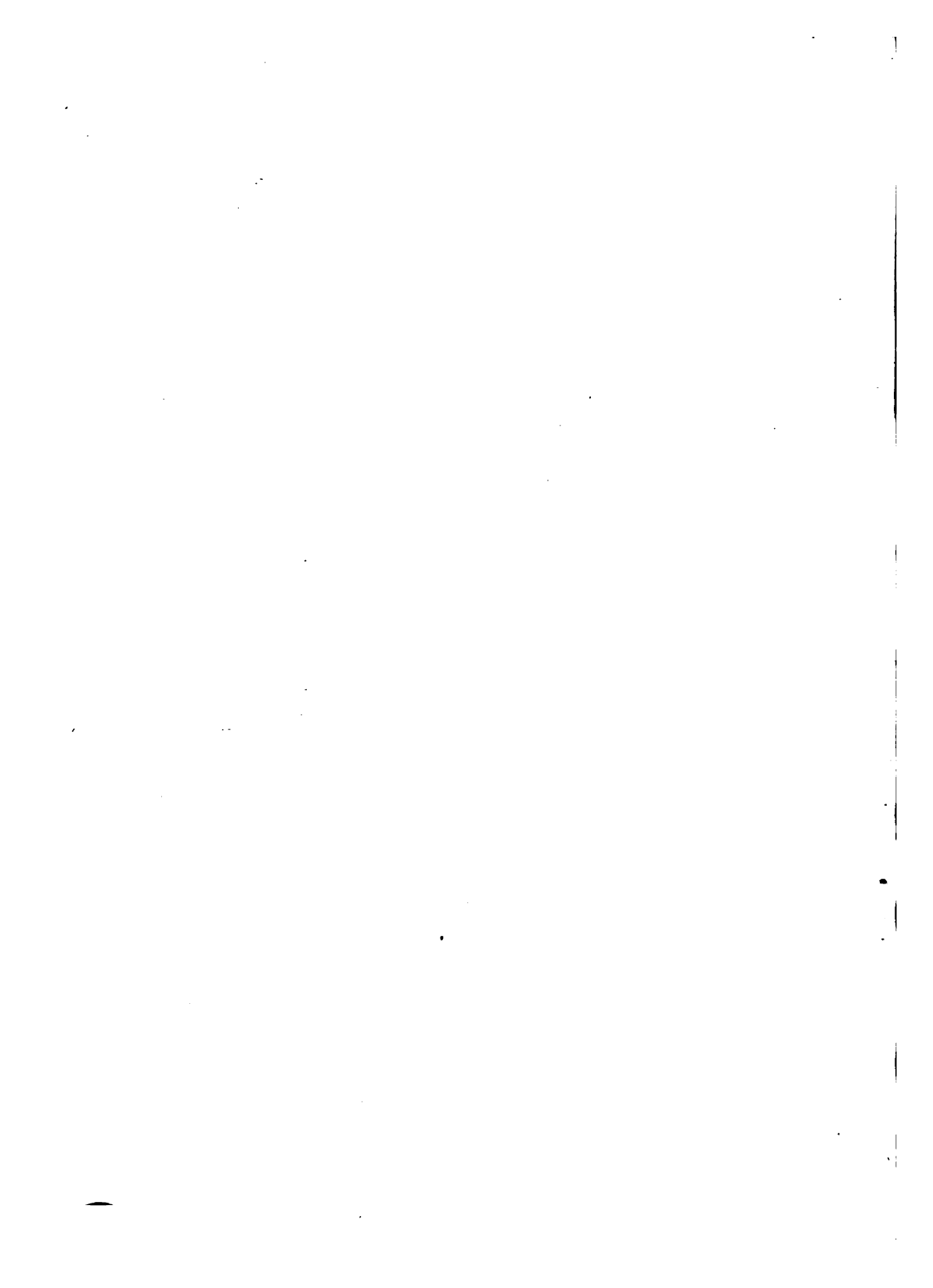
WHILE MAYOR OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

1888-9

NEW YORK

The Knickerbocker Press

1889



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DOCUMENTS AND ADDRESSES

NOMINATED FOR MAYOR.

The Democrats and Greenbackers met in convention at Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 29, 1888, to nominate candidates for city offices.

The nomination of mayor was first in order, and Mr. T. F. Carroll arose and urged the name of Mr. I. M. Weston. No other candidates were presented, and Mr. Weston was nominated on the first ballot. A committee, consisting of Henry Fralick, George R. Perry, and George N. Davis, was appointed and sent out to notify the nominee and bring him before the convention. They returned with Mr. Weston, who, upon being introduced, spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—I have been notified by your committee that you have nominated me as your candidate for mayor, and I accept this kind assurance of your confidence.

I appreciate the honor you have conferred. As you well know I have not sought this position, but I belong to that class of Democrats who believe that, under ordinary circumstances, no citizen should decline an unsolicited nomination tendered by the people. I am pledged, of course, to support the nominees of this convention, and assure you of my best work for the success of the ticket in the coming election.

My friends have kindly mentioned my name on previous occasions for this office, but I never felt at liberty to allow its use, as my business kept me from the city too much, but I am so situated this year that any prolonged absence will be unnecessary.

Grand Rapids is no longer a country village; she is a manufacturing city of 75,000 inhabitants; she is progressive, and demands a broad and comprehensive policy of public improvements. She has already accomplished much in that direction; her City Hall stands as a grand monument to the enterprise, taste, and intelligence of the officials charged with its erection. The school-houses, the bridges, the streets, and the system of lighting are all sources of pride to our citizens. Much more remains to be done; but taxation in this city has reached a limit

beyond which it must not and cannot go. I believe that with a fair and equitable valuation by our assessors and careful economy by all our departments of city government, a material reduction in the rate of taxation can be made. While we are progressive, we must be economical. Again thanking you and my friends generally for this new mark of confidence, I promise faithful service in behalf of all our union ticket until the close of the polls on election night.

INAUGURAL MESSAGE.

Mayor Weston assumed the duties of his office May 7, 1888, and upon taking the chair as presiding officer of the Common Council delivered the following address :

Gentlemen of the Common Council:—Fifty years ago to-day, on the first Monday in May, 1838, the 141 voters, who occupied the few houses then on the present site of this city, assembled and held their first municipal election under the new village charter, which incorporated them as the village of Grand Rapids, in the township of Kent, county of Kalamazoo. Four years previous, April 3, 1834, the township of Kent held its first election at the house of Joseph Guild, where the National City Bank building now stands, when nine voters were present to elect seventeen township officials. Every voter obtained one office, four received two, and two were compelled to take three each.

Twelve years later—in 1850—the village was changed by the Legislature to a city.

Of the voters who participated in that municipal election several are yet active business men in our city. But one of the trustees then elected is living, Hon. Charles I. Walker, also the first treasurer, who was afterwards a distinguished judge and a professor of law in our State University, and is now a practising lawyer in Detroit.

Making due allowance for the sanguine expectations of speculative pioneers, I doubt if one of those early settlers believed that on its semi-centennial anniversary Grand Rapids could have attained its present population, wealth, and importance.

From a few primitive cabins we have grown to a metropolitan city of 75,000 inhabitants, with 100 miles of streets paved or otherwise improved.

The intelligent, enterprising men, who had the foresight to discern the natural advantages of this location, at the head of steamboat navigation on Grand river, and founded the second city in the State, builded wiser than they knew. To-day the survivors of those pioneers see eight railroads centering in the city, and also

a steamboat line to Lake Michigan, bringing to us the vast trade and commerce of Western Michigan, and giving positive assurance of our future growth and prosperity as a great commercial centre. During every ten years since its incorporation Grand Rapids has at least doubled in population, and 1890 will surely bring us 100,000, or an increase of 200 per cent. over 1880. Our furniture, and other steam- and water-power factories, give employment to upward of 10,000 operatives, and their product is shipped to almost every civilized country in the world. Our business blocks and private residences are among the finest to be found in any city of equal size in the country. Our magnificent river, flowing through the heart of the city, one fifth of a mile in width, is spanned by eight splendid bridges, of which six are new iron structures of the latest and most improved design.

Twenty-two elegant and commodious school-houses give accommodations to 8,000 children. Our new City Hall is the finest public building in the State, and our Fire Department and other city buildings are in keeping with it.

Four daily papers and seven banks, five national and two state, are required to supply the wants of the city. Our street-railway sys-

tem, which includes horse-cars, and cable and steam motors, is one of the most extensive, complete, and perfect in its construction, equipment, and operation to be found in the United States.

Our Telephone Exchange has 1,200 subscribers, which is positive proof of the activity of business in the city. Forty-seven churches, in the charge of fifty-one active clergymen, including two bishops, are unmistakable evidences of a moral and law-abiding community.

Aside from its natural advantages, I attribute the gratifying growth of Grand Rapids to three causes.

First—We owe much to the character of the settlers who started the city. They were men of intelligence, industry, and enterprise. As they accumulated a surplus it was put into manufacturing or commercial enterprises, which gave employment to other men, built up the city, and yielded them fair returns on their capital. They had no use for bond or farm mortgage investments. They pursued a liberal policy towards their employés, which insured cordial co-operation in the work of developing a great manufacturing city.

Second—Our city has been favored with workingmen remarkable for their intelligence,

industry, and thrift: Although essentially a manufacturing city, we have never been retarded by a disturbing strike of any importance. A mutual feeling of fairness has ever prevailed on the part of both employers and employés, which has prevented any serious misunderstanding. The blatant advocates of anarchism could never find a listener among our law-abiding and intelligent workingmen. We are proud of our substantial business blocks, the palatial residences on our fashionable avenues, and our handsome and commodious public buildings, but we are far prouder of the miles of streets lined by the handsome homes of our workingmen. Their skill and industry have always commanded liberal wages and prompt pay. Their temperate habits have insured prosperity, and now comfortable, tasty houses, owned by the occupants, is the rule among them. A large majority of the churches in the city are supported by them, and they are the principal patrons of some of our daily papers. As a class they have achieved deserved prosperity, which we should do our utmost to promote and encourage.

Third—This city has been unusually fortunate in its officials. Intelligence, integrity, and economy have governed in our municipal

affairs. I cannot call to mind a case of embezzlement, defalcation, or bribery, either from personal knowledge or hearsay, among our officials during the half century of our municipal existence. For this remarkable record we must give much of the credit to the workingmen, who have cast a majority of the votes and held a majority of the offices in our city. The idea which prevails among a certain class, that workingmen are unfit to manage governmental affairs, has been thoroughly disproved in Grand Rapids.

In short, enterprising capitalists, intelligent workingmen, and honest officials have combined to make Grand Rapids what it is. We who constitute our municipal government for the ensuing year have much to do to meet the requirements of this great and growing city and maintain its reputation for official efficiency.

The financial affairs of the city, as shown by the complete report of the Treasurer published last week, are in a very satisfactory condition. It shows our bonded indebtedness as follows :

Board of Education Bonds.....	\$212,000
Water Works Bonds.....	382,000
City Hall Bonds.....	170,000
<hr/>	
Total	\$764,000

ASSETS.

School Property.....	\$656,500
Water Works.....	528,166
Fire Department.....	122,988
City Hall.....	300,000
Total	<u>\$1,607,654</u>

I have made no account of our parks, bridges, and tax-title property, which is considerable. Taking into consideration that we have no county or state debt, this statement is a highly favorable one.

The report of improvements made by the Board of Public Works during the past year shows expenditures as follows:

For Streets	\$99,535 00
For Sewers	22,753 00
For Water Mains.....	30,427 00
Other Expenditures.....	12,952 44
Total	<u>\$165,667 44</u>

Our City Hall, the most artistic, commodious, and complete public building in the State, is finished and nearly furnished for occupancy. Its total cost will be about \$310,000. The Board of Public Works are entitled to great credit for the taste, intelligence, and economy with which they have discharged their duties

in connection with this building. In the matter of streets and sewers, Grand Rapids is in good condition, but work on them should be pushed with energy for some time to keep pace with the rapid growth of our city. On the streets subjected to the heaviest traffic a more durable pavement than wood will soon be found necessary. The same is true of sidewalks, and I would recommend an ordinance prohibiting the further construction of plank sidewalks on a few of our principal business streets. We need a more substantial material than plank for sidewalks in a city of this size.

But the great question before the Board of Public Works for the coming year will be the enlargement of our present water system. We have but twenty-eight miles of pipe on about one hundred miles of occupied streets. The mains on our principal business streets are insufficient in size to furnish water in case of an extensive fire. In the hill district there is no pressure. Our reservoir is too small, and the water furnished is absolutely unfit for domestic use. Of the pipe now used, ten miles are wood, which should be replaced with iron. The quality of the water will grow worse instead of better as houses are built along the banks of

the creeks which are now our principal source of supply. There is an imperative demand for an extension of pipage and an increased supply of pure water, which must be met. Several plans have been proposed by the Board and voted down by the people. I know of no way but to submit other plans until one is found satisfactory. Under the present laws the will of the people, as expressed by the ballot, is supreme and must govern the action of the Board.

The completion of a new house for No. 3 gives the city Fire Department seven comparatively new and very commodious engine-houses containing all modern improvements. Our apparatus consists of four steamers, two chemical engines, two hook-and-ladder trucks, and seven two-horse hose-carts, which are manned by forty-seven full-pay and thirty-eight part-pay men. The houses and apparatus are all that can be used to advantage until there is a material extension of our water-mains. I would recommend that one of the hook-and-ladder trucks be exchanged for a combined extension ladder and fire-escape of the latest and most improved pattern. Great credit is due Fire-Marshal Lemoin for his successful efforts in

keeping the expenses of this department down to proper limits.

Law and order are at the foundation of commercial prosperity in any city. The important duties which devolve upon our Police Department are being discharged in an efficient manner. Our business streets are well patrolled by as many men as are necessary. The Detective Department, charged with the detection and prevention of crime, and to which the residence portion must largely look for protection, has not kept pace with the growth of the city. I believe the efficiency of the department would be promoted by transferring a number of the uniformed patrolmen to the ununiformed detective force. I also think the force at headquarters could be reduced without detriment to the service, and make considerable saving to the city. The total number of persons now on the department rolls is seventy-two, of whom two are detectives, one a truant officer, acting under orders of the Board of Education, fifty-one doing patrol duty, and the balance, eighteen, are officers and men employed about headquarters.

This department is charged with enforcing the State laws and ordinances of the city. One

of its principal tasks is the enforcement of laws for the regulation of saloons. This work can be materially lessened by the exercise of proper judgment on the part of the Council in granting licenses. Care should be taken about licensing saloons in the residence portions of the city beyond the limits of regular beats; or the granting of licenses to persons who have hitherto kept places frequented by the lawless class, and those who allow minors to drink, or permit gambling in their saloons, which is a prolific source of evil. The laws against gaming in saloons should be rigidly enforced. A large majority of our citizens are church-goers, who believe in a proper observance of the Sabbath-day, and out of respect for that class the law against keeping saloons open on Sunday should be strictly obeyed. At the same time we have a large number of foreign-born citizens, who in certain sections of the city are accustomed to assemble in private club-rooms, in many cases with their families, for purposes of innocent recreation on Sunday, where they are in the habit of indulging in light spirituous drinks. The assembling of these people in legitimate clubs is in accordance with their education, and they are entitled to exercise that right under the law, so long as

good order and decorum are observed, and I can see no objection to their enjoyment of this privilege.

I would also recommend the establishment of a system of call-boxes similar to the fire-alarm boxes, to be scattered through the residence portions of the city, by which a patrol wagon with one or two officers can at any time be summoned for protection from thieves, tramps, or other lawless characters. It is impossible to patrol the residence portions of the city, and with police wagons at headquarters, this seems to be the next best thing that can be done to afford protection to the outlying districts.

A year ago last winter the Legislature reorganized the Board of Health of the city. Under the operations of the new law much good has been accomplished. The rapid growth of our city during the past few years has made it necessary to adopt new measures to preserve the health of our citizens. The farmer whose residence is on the centre of a 40-acre lot can live in a spirit of independence, but among the inhabitants of a large city, where one family is separated from another by a 12-inch wall, there must be stringent regulations to preserve a proper sanitary condition. One half of our

citizens are using well water, and an ordinance to protect from contamination this important source of supply for domestic use is absolutely essential. The question of collecting, removing, and disposing of the offal of the city is also an important one, which deserves the serious consideration of the Common Council. I believe the time has come when we should either provide teams, or let the contract to private parties, to make a systematic collection of garbage throughout the city, and I also advise the adoption of some plan for disposing of it, beyond the primitive method now employed.

Next in importance to the water question, as regards public health, is our milk supply. Last year the general death-rate of our city was two thirds that of Chicago; but during the same period our infantile death-rate from cholera infantum exceeded that of Chicago. The disease in both cities was confined almost entirely to those infants fed on cows' milk. Chicago supervises the milk traffic; we do not. Our statutes prohibit the feeding of cows with swill, malt, and other distillery refuse and similar foods; but we need additional legislation to protect the milk consumers of this city. I would recommend that an ordinance be passed

requiring all venders of milk to be licensed, and providing for a systematic examination of the barns and the feed given cows by those who furnish the city with milk. The officers of the Board of Health should be charged with inspections of the barns to see that they are clean and well ventilated, and that the cows are fed on proper wholesome food. There should also be frequent chemical tests of the quality of milk furnished. The officers of this Board should also be charged with the inspection of meats and vegetables offered for sale in the city. Proper health regulations naturally cause considerable inconvenience and expense to individuals, which develops opposition, and the Common Council will find it necessary to exercise a considerable degree of intelligent firmness in adopting and enforcing proper sanitary regulations; but the general good of the city demands that decisive steps be taken in this direction as soon as possible.

During the past few years there has been a marked improvement in the street-railway system of the city. The Street-Railway Company of Grand Rapids have made material additions to their lines and equipments, which have given the public increased accommodations. The

company is entitled to great credit for their high standard of roads and cars and service rendered. The new Cable Company, which commenced operations in this city during the past year, have, with a very commendable spirit of enterprise and energy, solved the problem of the hills by the construction of a first-class cable road which is in successful operation, and have given their patrons a first-class service in the way of cars, tracks, etc., on their main as well as on their branch horse-lines.

Both companies give promise of further extending their systems to meet the requirements of the city. I believe in a liberal policy towards street railways; they are the poor man's highway, and I would be glad to see the street-car tracks within two blocks of every residence in Grand Rapids. In all large cities the problem of quick and cheap transit is an important one. The men who do not own teams have equal rights in our highways with those who do, and our streets are not the private property of adjoining residents. They must be used as thoroughfares for reaching our outlying districts, where those of limited means, as a rule, go for the building of residences, and street railways are their principal means of transit.

The department of street cleaning and repairs has been well managed during the past year, but the First District, on the east side of the river, should be provided with an assistant commissioner, as the work of supervision has become too great for one man to properly discharge the duties.

I would recommend that before the fall elections several additional voting precincts be authorized, particularly in the First and Eighth wards, which have from 1,500 to 2,000 voters each. There is but one polling-place in each ward. At least one or two additional should be established in each of these wards and some others throughout the city.

The general tax of the city has reached the sum of \$283,000 for this year. This is burdensome, and every effort should be made to keep down expenses. I would also recommend reform in the matter of assessments. For 1887 the assessment of real estate in the city was \$15,680,477. The total personal-property assessment was \$4,700,000. From this deduct \$2,400,000 of bank stock, and it leaves the ridiculous figures of \$2,300,000 for personal property outside of bank shares. I am satisfied that this is not over twenty per cent. of the

actual value of personal property in the city. The man who owns his home, or other real estate, or bank stock, is obliged to pay on the full value of his property, while those possessed of large personal property escape the principal part of what they should pay. In short, those who ought to pay the most of it pay the least, while the humble citizen, who is unable to fix up his statement, is subjected to the full amount of lawful taxation. This condition of affairs is scandalous. It cannot be continued without subjecting property to attacks which seemed to be founded on justice and which produce very great dissatisfaction in the public mind.

For some years the business streets of our city have been well lighted by electricity, and as so large a class of our citizens are compelled to do their trading in the evening, the additional expenditure thus incurred is eminently proper. The system of electric lighting has been gradually extended to the residence portions of the city. Last year the appropriation for this class of lighting was \$17,000, and while the lights are a great improvement they are an expensive luxury, which should not be extended beyond the limit of the lines already constructed, for the present.

Later in the evening Mayor Weston communicated to the Council the following appointments, which were all confirmed :

Police and Fire Commissioner.—Adolph Lietelt.

Member of the Board of Health.—Col. Charles W. Calkins.

Cemetery Commissioner.—Ransom C. Luce.

City Physician.—Dr. C. M. Droste.

Pound Master.—Patrick McNamara.

Assistant Judge of the Police Court.—W. O. Westfall.

Highway Commissioners.—Wm. E. Bloxton, William Walsh, and Martin Van Overeen.

Members of the Board of Public Works.—Freeman Godfrey and W. R. Shelby.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTIONS.

The Democratic State Convention, called to elect delegates to the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis, and a new State Committee for Michigan, met in Hartman's Hall, Grand Rapids, May 10, 1888.

Mayor Weston, as Chairman of the State Committee, called the convention to order. Gen. L. G. Rutherford was made Chairman. The nomination of delegates-at-large being in order, Mr. Edwin F. Uhl nominated I. M. Weston, of Grand Rapids. Mr. Uhl said :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention :—In the year 1880, at the Democratic State Convention assembled in Detroit, honored as a delegate from the county of Kent, it was my pleasure, at the request of the delegates from the shore counties of Lake Michigan, to place in nomination before that convention, as a candidate for the office of State Treasurer, a gentleman

then unknown in the politics of Michigan to any great extent; that nomination thus made by myself was promptly seconded by Hon. Don M. Dickinson in behalf of the delegation from the county of Wayne, and by the convention made unanimous by acclamation. I have said, sir, that the man whom I presented to that convention was not then largely known to the Democracy of Michigan. He was widely known as a successful business man; he was known in his county of Muskegon as a heroic worker in his party, but that year of 1880 was his advent into Michigan State politics. In that year he became a member of the Democratic State Central Committee. From that day to this hour he has rendered constant, efficient, patriotic, unselfish service to the cause of the Democracy in this State. Without the expectation or the desire of personal preferment, he has marched in the ranks, and when advanced to the front as a leader, he has borne aloft the standard of his party simply for the good of the cause. I make no invidious comparisons, gentlemen, but am I not safe in saying, because you all anticipate me, that the man of whom I speak, from 1880 to 1888, has given more of his time, of his talent, and of his means to advance the cause of

the Democracy in Michigan than any other to-day within its borders.

And now, sir, what is our duty here? Are we here to manufacture a boom for the presidency of second-class timber? No, sir. We are here charged with the grave duty of sending messengers to the National Convention at St. Louis who shall give expression of our will and join with the other representatives from every state between the two oceans, and from the lakes down to the gulf, in the nomination by acclamation of the present wise, safe, conservative, patriotic chief magistrate, who shall be his own successor.

Sir, he whom I shall name to you, I am safe in saying, enjoys the confidence and the friendship of the President of the nation to a large degree. He has been no distributer of patronage, nor has he sought to be, but his counsel and his advice, as is known to the Democrats all over the State, have been sought and acted upon to some extent at least, and, gentlemen of the convention, you will pardon me, I shall delay you but a moment longer, tell me when in the history of this commonwealth has she occupied the proud position in the sisterhood of states and before the nations of the world that she has

under the administration of a Democratic President.

Lothrop, the great leader of the Michigan bar, Minister at the Court of the Czars; Cooley, the foremost jurist of his time, at the head of the Interstate Commerce Commission; Montgomery, of the county of Ingham, in the Patent Office and on the bench of the District of Columbia; the learned and cultured Angell, of the Michigan University, on the Fishery Commission; and Dickinson—he who is the peer of them all, for so many years our gallant leader—now doing great honor to the State and great honor to the President as a member of his cabinet, making a magnificent record at the head of the Post-Office Department.

Sir, those who have advised in the selection of such men are worthy of the confidence of this convention, and worthy to represent us in the great council of the party soon to assemble.

And now, him whom I presented in 1880, thus nominated by acclamation, I present again to-day, and ask that like action be taken in his selection as the first Delegate-At-Large. I have said his work has been unselfish, and so it has. He has not been a seeker of office.

At the earnest solicitation of many valued

friends he consented to become the candidate for the office of Mayor of the city in which you meet, and was elected, notwithstanding the full force of the Republican machine throughout the entire State was invoked for his defeat.

I pay my respects to the distinguished gentleman from Charlotte, who upon the platform now occupied by yourself, Mr. Chairman, the other day, lamented the absence of the Mayor of the city from the convention then assembled, and I say parenthetically that he is here as the mayor *de facto et de jure*, and extends to the gathered representatives of the Democracy of the State a royal welcome to the hospitality of our fair Valley City. I move you, sir, that the first Delegate-At-Large elected by this convention be the Honorable I. M. Weston.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

When the business of selecting a State Committee for the ensuing two years was reached, Hon. C. R. Whitman, of Ann Arbor, moved that Hon. I. M. Weston, of Grand Rapids, be re-elected Chairman of the State Committee by acclamation. The motion was carried unanimously.

Just previous to the adjournment of the convention, a telegram was received from

Washington announcing that President Cleveland had appointed Mr. Weston Government Commissioner, to examine for acceptance the last section of the Southern Pacific Company's railroad from San Francisco to Portland, Oregon.

April 30, 1889, the Democratic State Convention, called to nominate candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court and Regents of the State University, assembled in Hartman's Hall, Grand Rapids, and was called to order and received by Mayor Weston as Chairman of the State Committee.

MEMORIAL DAY.

Mayor Weston issued the following call for a meeting to arrange for the celebration of Memorial Day in Grand Rapids :

MAYOR'S OFFICE, City of
Grand Rapids, Mich., May 14, 1888.

There will be a meeting of citizens at the Superior Court rooms on Saturday evening, May 16th, at half-past seven o'clock, to make necessary arrangements for a proper celebration of Memorial Day in this city. I earnestly request a full attendance and an active interest which will insure creditable observance of a beautiful and patriotic ceremony.

I. M. WESTON, Mayor.

At the meeting it was decided to appoint a committee of ten, of which the Mayor should be chairman, to act jointly with a committee from the G. A. R. Posts in making necessary arrangements. Mayor Weston announced that he would be in New York on Memorial Day, and could not act as chairman. Ald. Shanahan, President of the Council, was appointed in his place.

ELKS' RECEPTION.

The delegation of Grand Rapids Elks, which attended the meeting of the Grand Lodge of the United States in Cincinnati, and won the elegant prize banner offered for the lodge making the finest appearance on parade and in drill, returned home Saturday evening, June 9, 1888, with their trophy. They were met at the depot and escorted by the Grand Rapids Guards to Armory Hall, where Mayor Weston, the first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge, made an address of welcome. The entire Lodge and many invited guests then sat down to a banquet which had been prepared in honor of the occasion. Mayor Weston presided over the festivities, which lasted until midnight.

ANNUAL MEET OF THE WHEELMEN.

The Sixth Annual Meet of the Michigan League of American Wheelmen, held at Grand Rapids, closed with a banquet at Sweet's Hotel, Saturday evening, August 18, 1888. Toastmaster Frank H. Escott opened the literary programme by calling on Mayor Weston to welcome the visiting wheelmen.

The Mayor, after formally welcoming the guests and thanking them for the very fine displays made during the two days of the Meet, which had been so thoroughly enjoyed by the citizens of Grand Rapids, complimented the local club, and spoke of the honor conferred upon it by the selection of Mr. Richmond, one of its members, as Chief Executive of the Michigan League for the ensuing year. He said that, while he had never been an active athlete, he was a warm advocate of out-door sports, and took a deep interest in them. In his college days, when twenty-five years younger and sev-

enty-five pounds lighter, he had played with a base-ball nine,—or perhaps it would be nearer the truth to say that the other nine had played with him. A few years ago he accepted the Presidency of the Grand Rapids Base-Ball Club, and found that the duties consisted of endorsing and frequently paying notes for the club. He never dared to refuse, for fear they would put him to playing short-stop. If he was offered the choice now of endorsing a reasonable note or mounting a bicycle, due regard for personal safety and the dignity of the mayor's office would compel him to take up the pen. He closed by inviting the wheelmen to come oftener and stay longer.

TRAVELLING MEN'S BANQUET.

Saturday, September 2, 1888, the Travelling Men of Detroit visited Grand Rapids and played a game of base-ball with the local Travelling Men. A banquet at Sweet's Hotel followed in the evening. Mr. H. S. Robinson presided and introduced Mayor Weston as the first speaker.

The Mayor said he regretted that he had been selected to make the most important speech of the evening, as he received the invitation only that night as he was getting off the cars, tired and dusty, after a week's hard political campaigning in the eastern part of the State; but he assured the party that, in view of the agreeable surroundings, it was their misfortune and not his that he had been invited to be present.

He said that, as an unfortunate bachelor, he had lived the last twenty years of his life in hotels, and during that time had made very many pleasant friendships among travelling men, whose usefulness and many good qualities

he always appreciated. He felt that he owed much to the travelling men for helping to keep up the standard of the hotels by judicious and timely kicking. The travelling man always wanted the best, and was willing to pay one hundred cents on the dollar for it ; but, if given hash when he was paying for tenderloin, he could kick higher and harder than any other pilgrim on the road.

He had always felt that the work of the travelling men in building up cities, had never been properly appreciated. In Grand Rapids, like all other cities, people are always giving credit to the men whose money builds factories or stocks stores, and to the mechanics who make merchandise, but hardly ever were the travelling salesmen mentioned in this connection, who are charged with selling the stock, and upon whose energy, tact, and good judgment the success of manufacturing and commercial enterprises mainly depend. Their labors covered about twenty-four hours of every week-day and a part of Sunday. During cold or rain, heat or dust, they were constantly on the move, and must always be prepared to play poker or lead in prayer, as the tastes of customers demanded. They were a comparatively new factor in the

progress and growth of our cities, and had not yet been accorded the position to which they are fairly entitled in the commercial world. They may not always be modest, but they always "get there," and that quality was as necessary in men of business, as modesty in woman.

Mayor Weston said, as political workers, he had rather have ten travelling men than ten lawyers, for they can give odds and out-talk the latter every time. He closed by complimenting the home players on their victory in the afternoon contest, and welcoming the visitors in behalf of the citizens of Grand Rapids, who were proud of their presence and hoped for the pleasure of future visits.

OPENING OF THE NEW CITY HALL.

The ceremonies of opening the new City Hall of Grand Rapids took place during the afternoon and evening of September 26, 1888. At 2.30 P.M. Mayor Weston called the audience, which had assembled in the building, to order, and invited Rt.-Rev. George D. Gillespie, D.D., Bishop of Western Michigan, to invoke the divine blessing. Remarks were made by the architect, Mr. E. E. Myers, of Detroit, and the contractor, Mr. W. D. Richardson, of Springfield, Ill., who turned the building over to the Board of Public Works. President George G. Briggs accepted it for the Board, and in turn presented it to the city.

Mayor Weston, representing the city, responded as follows:

Mr. President:—In behalf of Grand Rapids I accept this handsome and commodious edifice, and as chief executive of the city I hereby declare it open for public use.

It is a grand monument to the generous enterprise of our citizens; to the taste, the ability, and the integrity of the Board that built, the architect who planned, and the contractor and superintendent charged with its erection. Graceful in design, solid in construction, ample in accommodations, it stands a source of pride to every one of our 75,000 inhabitants.

For the first time our city government owns its home. Following the practical conservatism which has ever characterized the administration of our municipal matters, we first provided ample and elegant school structures, a complete system of necessary public improvements; and now, in the full tide of prosperity, when the tax is scarcely felt, we build an official residence creditable to our rank among cities, where we can dwell in comfort and entertain with pride.

But while proud of our new and elegant home, I am far prouder of the record made by Grand Rapids during her fifty years' existence as a municipal government. The aim of her officials has been to give a pure, able, and economical administration of public affairs; to advance morality, promote enterprise, protect labor, administer justice, and combat ignorance. During this half century there has been no definite

charge of misconduct against an official of Grand Rapids. This fact is remarkable and should be an incentive for all to maintain the enviable reputation we have so thoroughly earned. Let us hope that all future legislation and official acts within these halls will be for the common weal—doing exact justice to all, remembering that the good done will survive long after these walls are in decay.

Judge Charles I. Walker, of Detroit, delivered an historical address, followed by remarks from ex-Mayors George W. Thayer, John W. Champlin, Justice of the Supreme Court, Thomas B. Church, and Mr. Thomas D. Gilbert, and Col. Thad. Foote. The ceremonies closed with a benediction by the Rt.-Rev. H. J. Richter, D.D., Bishop of Grand Rapids.

In the evening the building was thrown open and the Mayor, assisted by other city officials, gave a formal reception in the Mayor's rooms, which was attended by upwards of 12,000 persons.

TO THE VOTERS OF MICHIGAN.

The following address was sent out by Mayor Weston, as Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee.

HEADQUARTERS DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
East Saginaw, Mich., October 23, 1888.

To the Voters of Michigan:—Two weeks from to-day you will vote for President and Vice-President of the United States, Congressmen, and State and county officers. This will be the one hundredth anniversary of George Washington's first election. It will also be the eighty-eighth anniversary of the first national victory of the Democratic party, which for fifty-two years has controlled the general government. Founded by Thomas Jefferson on the basis of an honest, conservative, and economical administration of public affairs, it has, by courageous and strict adherence to those great principles, made its unparalleled record as a powerful political organization.

In again asking your support for its candidates, we call attention to the work of the present National Administration. Placed in power on the platform that taxation should not exceed the needs of the government, economically administered, it has labored faithfully to carry out that idea. A Democratic President recommended that the required reduction be made by removing a part of the present tariff-tax from the necessities of life. A Democratic Congress passed a bill in accordance with this recommendation, and it was left for a Republican Senate to refuse relief.

In the direction of civil-service reform, a Democratic President, his cabinet ministers and their assistants, have set the example of honest personal attention to the public duties they assumed. Non-partisan business methods pervade the departments, and the army of lobbyists who thronged the national capital four years ago have abandoned their calling as dangerous, disreputable, and unprofitable under Democratic rule.

Over 80,000,000 acres of the public domain that were illegally held by grasping corporations have been restored to the people. In this State prompt action on the part of a Democratic

administration has saved 4,000 homes for the pioneers of the Upper Peninsula, which were placed in jeopardy by the cruel class legislation of Republican Congresses.

The Pension Department is honest, energetic, and liberal in caring for our disabled veterans. For several classes the amounts paid have been increased. More special acts for relief of extraordinary cases have been approved and more regular claims allowed than by any previous administration. The new rule of non-partisan local boards, by which every applicant has a political friend among examiners, is a Democratic innovation. In Michigan a wounded ex-soldier took the place of a civilian State agent, and the same rule prevails in all branches of the department.

The foreign policy of the Administration has been wise, firm, and dignified.

Under a clean, conservative administration, pledged to economical expenditures and a reduction of taxation, there has been a general improvement in the business interests of the country. As compared with the preceding four years of Republican rule, we have seen a marked advance in values covering government securities, railway stocks, and almost every class of

property excepting farms, while the reports of our mercantile agencies show a steady decrease in failures.

For 1885, 1886, and 1887 our State built 1,106 miles of railroad against 858 miles for the three years preceding. Our northwestern shipping interests show still greater improvement. Lumber and ore products have increased in quantity and improved in prices, while pine lands have advanced fifty per cent. in value. Workmen have found steady employment for higher wages, and in nearly all commercial, manufacturing, and mining industries prosperity has prevailed as the natural result of contented labor and confident capital. Under these conditions can the business men of Michigan afford to vote for a change of National Administration?

For President and Vice-President we present recognized leaders among the people, tried statesmen, able and fearless in their opposition to class legislation, to whose utterances conventions turn for platform principles; while the candidates of the opposition are creations of a convention notoriously controlled by influences hostile to the masses.

In the line of tax reduction we charge the Republican party with a policy opposed to the

interests of the people. It removed all war taxes from national banks, railroad, steamboat, express, telegraph, and gas companies, incomes over \$1,000, brokers' sales of stocks and bonds, theatres, lotteries, patent medicines, billiard-tables, yachts, carriages, pianos, gold and silver plate, and all other articles of luxury, reduced the tax on whiskey more than one half, and now, when the Democratic party demands a twenty-per-cent. reduction of the same war tax on food and clothing, the Republican party stands in solid line against it.

All tariff taxes are paid and received by inhabitants of the United States, hence the country at large can derive no benefit from them. They only enrich one class, or one section, at the expense of another. The present tariff taxes have been arranged by the Republican party expressly to make the producers and workmen of the northwest pay tribute to eastern manufacturers.

For the year ending June 30, 1887, the citizens of the United States paid a tariff tax on cloth, and articles made of wool, cotton, silk, flax, and hemp, of \$83,918,059, or \$1.67 per capita. Of this, 1,636,937 inhabitants of Michigan paid \$2,733,685, or twenty-five per cent.

more than our State taxes for that year. During the same year our State paid a sugar tax of \$1,923,369, for the benefit of Louisiana planters and the New York Sugar Trust, while our State tax for that year was \$1,950,000, and in 1886 only \$1,202,000. Yet, when the question of reducing these taxes on clothing and sugar twenty per cent. came before Congress, July 21st, the vote was 156 Democrats and 3 Republicans, Yes, and 144 Republicans and 4 Democrats, No. The above are but few of the 4,000 items on which our citizens pay a tariff tax mainly for the benefit of other States.

At their last national convention the Republican party resolved that: "We favor the entire repeal of internal-revenue taxes rather than the surrender of any part of our protective system." In other words the tax must come off from spirits, tobacco, oleomargarine, and bank circulation before it can be removed from food and clothing, while their great uncrowned king declares that private trusts are nobody's business.

A few weeks ago Mr. Blaine laid before the country a statement of deposits in New England savings-banks as proof of the prosperity of American manufacturers as compared with those of England. We make another comparison.

Put side by side the savings-bank deposits of New England manufacturers with those of the producers in our six Northwestern States, and see how the Republican protective policy has affected the two sections. The showing is as follows :

NEW ENGLAND STATES.

	Population.	Deposits.
Maine.....	648,936	\$37,215,071
New Hampshire...	346,971	50,822,762
Vermont.....	332,286	15,587,050
Massachusetts	1,783,085	291,197,900
Rhode Island.....	276,531	53,284,821
Connecticut	622,700	97,424,820
Total.....	4,010,529	\$545,532,424
New England—for each inhabitant,		\$136.02½

NORTHWESTERN STATES.

	Population.	Deposits.
Ohio	3,198,062	\$15,065,659
Michigan.....	1,636,937	23,574,308
Indiana.....	1,978,301	2,312,013
Illinois	3,077,871	14,061,250
Wisconsin	1,315,497	4,000,000
Minnesota	780,773	3,402,950
Total.....	11,987,441	\$62,416,180
Northwest—for each inhabitant,		\$5.20

These figures require no comment.

Nor is this all. The millionaire beneficiaries of the Republican tariff legislation in the East to-day hold most of the bonds on Michigan railroads, cities and counties, and a large portion of her \$37,454,679 of farm mortgages—a load mainly the direct result of the protection policy of the Republican party, which for twenty years has compelled our farmers to pay war prices for what they purchase, and take peace prices for products they have to sell. Is it surprising that the Northwest demands a tariff for revenue in place of one for robbery?

Workingmen should take special interest in this election. Do not waste votes on side issues. There are but two parties in this contest. The Democratic party has ever been a true and consistent friend of the people, and to it the workingmen are indebted for about all the legislation or recognition they have received. In this respect it stands to-day where it has always stood. As evidence, read the words of President Cleveland contained in his special message sent to Congress in 1886:

“The laboring man, bearing in his hand an indispensable contribution to our growth and progress, may well insist, with manly courage, as a right, upon the same recognition from those

who make our laws as is accorded to any other citizen having a valuable interest in charge ; and his reasonable demands should be met in such a spirit of appreciation and fairness as to induce a contented and patriotic co-operation in the achievement of a grand national destiny.

“The discontent of the employed is due in a large degree to the grasping and heedless exactions of employers and the alleged discrimination in favor of capital as an object of governmental attention. . . . I suggest that there be created a commission of labor, consisting of three members, who shall be regular officers of the government, charged among other duties with the consideration and settlement, when possible, of all controversies between labor and capital.”

To-day the real workingmen, who, as a rule avoid politics, stand by the party which has stood by them, while the professional workingmen, who, as a rule avoid labor, are pushing side issues in the interest of monopolies.

In contrast with the business methods of the Democratic National Administration at Washington are those of the Republican State Administration of Michigan. Here the chief executive officers, after accepting a trust from the people, draw their pay, and mainly devote

themselves to private and political interests, rarely visiting the State capital except on salary day.

The vast interests of Michigan are left almost entirely to deputies and clerks without direct responsibility to the people. The result is careless and extravagant management. Many unnecessary offices have been created, and hundreds of clerks and employés furnished with places as a reward for political services, who are not needed for legitimate State work.

These abuses have been constantly growing during the past thirty-two years of Republican rule until our State taxes have become a serious burden, and citizens are earnestly asking the reason of their rapid increase. These extravagant expenditures have made it necessary to limit appropriations for some of our most deserving public institutions to a degree that seriously cripples their usefulness.

We also charge the managers of the Republican party in Michigan with the demoralizing policy of bestowing the highest offices as a reward for heavy contributions to partisan schemes which puts political preferment beyond the reach of men with moderate means.

In conclusion, we ask the voters of Michigan

to carefully and candidly consider the issues here presented. The Democratic party does not ask for free trade, but it does ask, and demand, that taxation shall be limited to the legitimate wants of the government and equitably assessed upon all classes and all sections of the country.

I. M. WESTON, Chairman.

CORRECTIONS AND CHARITIES.

The Seventh Annual Convention of the Michigan State Board of Corrections and Charities, and Conference of County Agents, met at the Ladies Literary Club House, Grand Rapids, December 4, 1888. The Chairman, Mr. Thomas D. Gilbert, introduced Mayor Weston, who welcomed the visiting delegates as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

As Chief Executive of Grand Rapids I am pleased to welcome you to our city. As a citizen of Michigan I am glad of the opportunity to express my appreciation of the noble work you are doing—a work which has given Michigan a world-wide reputation for intelligent, liberal, and humane treatment of her unfortunates.

For this enviable position among states we are largely indebted to the untiring and well-directed efforts of this Board. Acting mainly

upon your advice the State has made liberal and wise provisions for carrying out the modern idea of properly classifying and separating the inmates of our institutions for reform and correction. The State school for boys at Coldwater and for girls at Adrian, our reform school at Lansing, and the intermediate prison at Ionia for the less hardened, are evidences of your faithful labor and the healthy public sentiment you have developed.

I know of no one thing which more clearly indicates the growth of civilization during the past fifty years in Europe and America than the reforms in the management of prisons. Seventy years ago an English member of Parliament first started the inquiry whether the prison system then in vogue did not produce instead of prevent crime—whether the true policy was to flog out of a prisoner all that was good, develop all that was bad, and send him from prison a doubly dangerous man, or to implant in his mind a feeling of hope and self-respect by kind yet firm treatment. Others followed, keeping up the agitation until twenty years later the reformers carried their ideas into practical operation, and prisons were no longer simply houses of torture.

I speak from several years' experience as a police commissioner of this city, when I say more than 75 per cent. of the criminals sent to our prisons are capable of reformation. I admit the existence of hopeless criminals, in whom a tendency to crime seems to be a constitutional, incurable disease. They are as irresponsible for their acts as the worst lunatic in our insane asylums, and should be confined for life as soon as their peculiar mental and moral condition is discovered. But I confess to a feeling of hope and sympathy for most of those unfortunate creatures of circumstance, who in childhood never heard from a mother's lips the story of the Gentle Master, which pointed to hopes and aims above.

When I see the rational reforms in prison discipline, I have hopes that in the near future those charged with the direction of our public schools will at least get abreast of modern prison management and abolish that relic of barbarism, the whipping-post, from our halls of education. I am yet to be convinced that any man, woman, or child is improved by physical torture.

Every citizen of Michigan is proud of her homes for the dependent classes. Her three

asylums for the insane, her institutions for the blind and the deaf and dumb are among the best in the land, well equipped, commodious, comfortable, and conducted upon the most approved modern ideas, under the general supervision of your Board. I believe every taxpayer is pleased with the liberal treatment they receive at the hands of our State government.

In this connection I desire to say that some of our larger cities suffer from indiscriminate charities. We find in many cases several organizations of well-meaning individuals engaged independently in the same field. This gives encouragement to the lazy and dishonest to draw aid from several sources, and drop into an aimless, dependent life, which frequently ends in criminal acts. The loss of time and money by this policy is the least of the evils which attend it. It creates a distinct pauper class which is growing too rapidly. We have in this little city of 75,000 inhabitants to-day 800 persons receiving public aid, and I firmly believe that fully one third of them are the unfortunate victims of what might properly be termed emotional charity. They have lost all ambition, and the children of these families are following in the same indolent, helpless way. Some are

saved by removal to the Coldwater school, whence they are engrafted upon the more vigorous stock of our farmer families.

The remedy is to conduct our charities on the intellectual rather than the emotional plan. Let the same business-like methods prevail that are applied to our departments of education, public works, police and fire protection, and all other branches of government. Let there be a recognized head. The city government should direct and systematize, and citizens' organizations and committees should act in auxiliary capacities. This policy would prevent many of the present abuses.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I welcome your Board to Grand Rapids, and bid you God-speed in your great and good work.

Right Reverend George D. Gillespie, D.D., Bishop of Western Michigan, Chairman of the State Board, made an appropriate response.

OWASHTANONG BOAT CLUB.

The regular annual meeting of the Owashtanong Boat Club was held in the gymnasium room of the Club-house at Grand Rapids, January 10, 1889, when Mr. Weston, as President of the Club, submitted the following annual report :

Gentlemen of the Owashtanong Boat Club:

It again becomes my duty under the rules to report to you the condition of the Club, with such recommendations as appear to be necessary. During the year 1888 interest was well maintained, and our receipts show a handsome surplus over expenses. The demand indebtedness has been decreased to an amount but little in excess of our available assets, consisting of accounts receivable and supplies on hand. This leaves our principal net indebtedness the \$4,100 of boat-house bonds which have seven years yet to run. In two years we have nearly paid the

\$13,217.64 of indebtedness incurred in fitting up and furnishing these rooms, and have lived well besides.

It is proposed during the coming year to introduce general field sports. A movement is on foot to form a base-ball nine and to promote similar athletic organizations among our members. This work should receive every encouragement from the Club.

I would recommend that an instructor be employed in the gymnasium during the winter months, and that steps be taken to enlarge the library.

Last summer the Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association held its annual regatta in Grand Rapids under the auspices of this Club, and will again meet with us next season. Our oarsmen also participated in the Pullman and Salt Lake City regattas during the past year.

The secretary's books show the membership of the club on January 1, 1889, as follows:

Active members	453
Non-resident members.....	106
Honorary members.....	9
Life members.....	2
<hr/>	
Total.....	570

The treasurer's report shows receipts and disbursements for the year ending January 1, 1889, as follows :

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1888.....	\$ 340 67
Supplies sold.....	13,384 24
Dues from members.....	10,903 74
Initiation fees from new members.....	1,168 00
Donations and miscellaneous sources.....	408 08
Bills payable.....	950 00
Gymnasium	52 70
Bills receivable	25 00
Total.....	<u>\$27,232 43</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Purchase of supplies.....	\$ 9,191 31
Salaries	4,712 49
Bills payable, paid.....	3,744 10
General expense account.....	1,622 45
Rent.....	2,481 29
Boat-house expenses.....	1,557 72
Lighting.....	933 55
Entertainments.....	768 80
Repairs.....	572 89
Interest.....	376 72
Printing and stationery.....	324 36
Furniture.....	261 53
New boat.....	281 50
Taxes	81 93
Insurance.....	107 00
Cash on hand.....	214 79
Total.....	<u>\$27,232 43</u>

The assets and liabilities on the same date were as follows :

ASSETS.

Real estate, boat-house...	\$6,078 70
Furniture and fixtures, boat-house.....	2,308 00
Boats.....	2,411 00
Permanent construction, club rooms.....	2,447 88
Furniture and fixtures, club rooms.....	11,486 88
Supplies on hand.....	1,629 08
Due from members, including quarterly dues charged Jan. 1st.....	5,062 76
Bills receivable.....	25 00
Cash on hand.....	214 78
Total.....	<u>\$31,664 98</u>

LIABILITIES.

Boat-house 10-year bonds.....	\$4,100 00
Certificates to members.....	2,090 00
Bills payable.....	2,417 13
Accounts payable.....	3,852 39
Coupons, not presented.....	294 95
Total.....	<u>\$12,754 47</u>
Net assets.....	18,910 51
Net assets Jan. 1, 1888.....	<u>15,494 88</u>
Increase during the year.....	\$3,415 63

The business of the restaurant, including cigar stand, shows a profit, for the year, of \$4,145.87, an increase of \$565.89 over the year 1887.

The boat-house and boats are in much better condition than a year ago, for which we are largely indebted to the very efficient work of Mr. F. C. Temple, the chairman of the boat-house committee.

It is my painful duty to announce the death of three of our most valuable and respected members during the year 1888: Maj. A. B. Watson, Hon. George H. White, and R. L. Hunting, and since the close of the year we are called upon to mourn the loss by death of one we all loved, Hon. Charles H. Taylor.

In closing I desire to thank the members of the various committees and the boating officers for the very efficient and satisfactory manner in which they have discharged their numerous and laborious duties.

At the conclusion of his address President Weston took occasion to make a few informal remarks upon the necessity for the members of the Club to abide by the rules. It was only by strict conformance with them that the organization could preserve its reputation and prosper.

BURNS CLUB BANQUET.

The Burns Club celebrated the poet's birthday by a banquet at the Bridge Street House, January 25, 1889. President J. B. Morton presided, and Mayor Weston responded to the sentiment, "Grand Rapids, our Home," as follows :

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen :

When I accepted the nomination for Mayor, it was with the assurance that the duties of the office would be confined solely to heading subscription papers, licensing peanut-stands, appointing a member of the Board of Public Works, voting off ties, and stirring up the Salvation Army. But a few days after my election I found they had taken advantage of my innocence, when I was informed that it was my duty to make a speech,—something I never could do,—and about every week since I have had my nerves shocked by a similar demand. Then the worst of it is, the absence of variety

in the subjects assigned me. It is always Grand Rapids. I cannot make the same complaint that the boy made whose father bought him Webster's dictionary, which he read through by course, and complained that there was too much variety to it. All my original and bright ideas on this subject were long ago exhausted. It is difficult to talk to a company when all are as well posted on the subject as the speaker. I sometimes long for an audience of one, which I once had in Washington, when I visited that city, in company with an officer of the Engineer Corps, who invited me to join him for lunch with his uncle, an admiral in our navy. The old Admiral, who had spent the most of his life at sea, received us very kindly, and inquired of his nephew where he was now stationed. "Grand Rapids, Michigan," he replied. The Admiral stroked his beard, turned his eyes to the ceiling, and asked "How far are you from a town?" Now I talked with that man about Grand Rapids for an even hour, and then only wished for physical strength to assist me in further elucidation.

For this occasion I applied to a member of the Old Settlers' Club, for some novelty about Grand Rapids, to present this evening. He

assured me confidentially that steamboats once landed where Sweet's Hotel now stands. It appears that while the navigation of Grand river has become somewhat restricted, the stream still serves a valuable purpose in Congressional campaigns, when candidates stir up the voters of Spoonville with ship-canal schemes. I also learned that the first white settlement of the city was a Baptist mission on the west side; but we are led to infer that it did not prosper, as the building was soon afterwards sold to a trader, who moved it across the river and used it for the ignoble purpose of a warehouse. It seems that the traders were more successful with the Indians than the Baptists had been. I fear there was too much water in the Baptist religion to suit the Indians of that day and generation.

I remember, a few years ago, looking over the old account-books of the John Jacob Astor Trading Company at Mackinaw, where I saw one invoice of goods recorded for Grand Rapids or some other point near by. As I now recall the record, the consignment consisted of two hogsheads of red wine, one pipe of Holland gin, three barrels of New England rum, one pipe of brandy, several cases of Madeira wine, and

two barrels of flour, which appeared to be the winter stock for an Indian trading-post in the Grand River Valley in that period of its history.

I also learned that the first election held in Grand Rapids took place fifty years ago, when nine voters assembled to elect seventeen officers ; they all got one apiece, some two, and two three. I presume the average Congressman would give a ton of government garden seeds if the same proportion of offices to voters existed to-day.

But Grand Rapids has long since outgrown those days of pioneer simplicity. We have now our mammoth factories, our splendid business blocks, our elegant residences, our grand public buildings, our Salvation Army, our club-houses, our commodious hotels, all filled to overflowing, our cable road, on which trains pass on a single cable. We have no booms ; we don't want them ; they are bad for a city. The only boom we ever had got away from us a few years ago and swept out most of our bridges. We have become a metropolitan city, and I think it is time we threw off our maiden modesty, and asserted our rights in accordance with our population and importance. One claim has suggested itself to me. Boston has long been recognized as the hub of this country. A hub

suggests an axle-tree with two ends ; as it cannot extend eastward, it must reach west ; and why cannot we locate the other end at the head of navigation on Grand river, and christen our thriving city the Hub of the West ? We have long been noted for taking the lead in all sorts of wooden-ware, and I know of no good reason why we should not go into the hub business.

This toast reads "Grand Rapids, our Home." The wording is eminently appropriate. Grand Rapids is essentially a home city, a city of homes.

I was particularly impressed with this idea one day last week, when I had occasion to show an eastern gentleman around the city. I drove him through our rich residence avenues on the hill, over the west side past our extensive factories and through the other interesting sections of the city, and asked if he desired to see more. He replied that he wanted to go away with a complete and correct idea of Grand Rapids, and he wished to be shown the poor part of the city. It required several minutes to think where I would take him, and it then occurred to me for the first time that we have no mean quarter in Grand Rapids. However, I took him to where I thought the poorest residences were, and there

we found nothing but what was comfortable and even attractive. He asked with some surprise if this was the poorest part of Grand Rapids, and would hardly believe my statement when I told him it was. I assured him further that, besides having no crowded tenement district, no dilapidated quarters, every street and every block was absolutely safe for a respectable woman to walk unattended at any hour of the day or night.

I remember a few years ago when Coleridge, the Lord Chief Justice of England, visited America, he was banqueted in New York City on the eve of his departure, after having made his tour of the country, and he then told his hosts that he had seen our grand mountains, our mighty rivers, and our great commercial centres, but what impressed him most in his travels about the United States was the great number of homes owned and occupied by the middle class, and he charged his hearers to cultivate, encourage, and develop those homes, for they were the secure foundation on which our republican form of government rested. What he said of the whole country applies still more strongly to Grand Rapids. I believe no other city of its size in the Union has so many pleas-

ant homes built and occupied by the owners, and I say to you, as he said to the inhabitants of the United States, it is our highest duty to guard and increase them.

FURNITURE CONVENTION.

The first convention of the National Furniture Manufacturers' Association met at Armory Hall, Grand Rapids, January 29, 1889. President Charles R. Sleigh occupied the chair, and introduced Mayor Weston, who spoke as follows: Gentlemen of the National Furniture Manufacturers' Association:

We are proud to receive the delegates to the first national convention of furniture manufacturers held in the United States. We appreciate the honor conferred upon our city, and feel called upon to put forth every effort to make your visit pleasant and profitable. We want to show you our factories, where we make every thing in the line of wooden household goods, from cradles to coffins. We also know we can obtain from you, gentlemen, who have been so successful in developing the immense furniture establishments of our sister cities,

many new and valuable ideas of material benefit to our local manufacturers. We are yet young in this business.

It is only about thirty years since George M. and A. B. Pullman, of palace-car fame, built and operated the first furniture establishment in Grand Rapids, and from their humble shop we have developed the factories you now find in our city. But I fear I am treading on dangerous ground talking about a branch of business you understand so much better than I. We want to say to the delegates here assembled, and to those yet to arrive, that we are glad to see them. We have had with us during the present month a large number of furniture buyers, and we enjoyed their visit. I also want to say that they behaved admirably, faithfully attended to business during the day, stayed at home nights, and went to church on Sundays. We hope your visit will not terminate with the close of the convention to-morrow night. We want you to spend the entire week with us, and not only see our factories, but accept the hospitalities of our clubs. As president of the Owashtanong Boat Club, I invite you all to visit us and make yourselves at home in our rooms. Your badges will be all the cards of

admission you need. I can also promise you just as cordial a welcome at the Peninsula Club. Now these are our good clubs. We have "club-" rooms which you must avoid—I refer to those where they play poker generally, and toboggan occasionally, when circumstances demand. I presume the members of your committee will be able to point out these places so that you can avoid them.

We want you to stay all the week and over Sunday, when we will show you fifty-two churches where religion is preached in six different languages, and after dinner we can take you to the West Side, to visit the various club-rooms of our foreign-born citizens, where they drink lager in—I won't say how many languages. Then in the evening you can go down to the Salvation Army barracks, where the girls play tambourines and preach salvation with a vim and vigor seldom equalled and never excelled.

We want you to come again next year. Candor compels me to admit that we are a little on our good behavior this winter in the way of climate, but we always give you the best we have of climate or any thing else. We feel like hanging out the placard I have seen in

stores: "If you don't see what you want, ask for it." If we have n't got it we will order it. Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer this morning, as the committee has promised me another chance at you to-morrow evening, but will close by again extending to you all a most cordial and heartfelt welcome to Grand Rapids.

Mr. Jacques, of New York, responded in a short and appropriate address to the Mayor's welcome.

The convention closed with a banquet at Sweet's Hotel on the evening of the 30th, given the delegates to the National Convention by the Grand Rapids Furniture Manufacturers' Association, at which Mayor Weston made an address in response to the toast, "Our Guests."

He said that ten days before, when notified that he would be expected to respond to the toast, "Grand Rapids," he demurred, as he felt exhausted on that subject, and offered to make a little talk on the tariff for a change, but the committee did not take kindly to the proposal, and even suggested that there would be men present who were dangerous, when thoroughly aroused by proper provocation. But

last night they had told him he would have the opening toast, "Our Guests." He appreciated the honor of speaking to such a sentiment, and expressed the satisfaction of Grand Rapids citizens that a convention so important, so successful, and so pleasant had been held in the city.

In answer to the frequent question, What made Grand Rapids a furniture centre? he said: When the Indian traders came here they depended on Grand river for two things—transportation of supplies from Lake Michigan, and the mixing of that historical compound known as "Indian" whiskey. They soon discovered that in the proportion they added Grand river water to the whiskey purchased, their profits increased and the danger to the Indians diminished. Later, the Indians went and the railroads came. The pioneers were surrounded by forests of walnut, oak, ash, and pine, in the way of farmers, and had an idle river on their hands. Those early settlers detested idleness, so they dammed the river and set it to making furniture.

Grand Rapids manufacturers were among the first in the United States to recognize art and beauty in the construction of low-priced furniture. It cost but a trifle more, and largely increased sales and profits. Our city took

great pride in this feature of her furniture-trade. Titian, Raphaël, and Rubens were credited with giving a marked impetus to civilization by their works of art, but Mayor Weston claimed that the architects who first taught the man of moderate means to build a handsome home for \$1,000, and the designers who led in devising an artistic bedroom set for \$20, had been of more practical benefit to this country, and had done more to develop and embellish home life in the United States, than all the painters whose expensive works adorn our famous galleries.

MICHIGAN GRAND LODGE, I. O. OF O. F.

The Forty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Michigan Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, was held in Hartman's Hall, Grand Rapids, February 19, 1889. Grand Master Dewey, of Owosso, presented Mayor Weston, who addressed the assemblage as follows:

Grand Master and Gentlemen of the Grand Lodge of Michigan:

I am glad to meet you in Grand Rapids and to express the appreciation of our citizens that this city was selected for the place of your annual gathering. I feel that the presence of so large a number of delegates, representing and actuated by the grand purposes and grand principles of your benevolent and beneficial organization, must result in good to the inhabitants of our city. In this hard and selfish age, when mankind seems so absorbed in the mad struggle for wealth that pleas for justice

and charity are but faintly heard, it is gratifying to find one order whose members are pledged to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan; who seek to improve and elevate the character of man, imbue him with proper conceptions of his capabilities for good, enlighten his mind, enlarge the sphere of his affections, and lead him to a cultivation of the true fraternal relation designed by the Great Author of his being.

With such objects, and such aims, is it a wonder that in 70 short years you have attained a membership of 530,000 in the United States, which gives you second place among the 200 fraternities of this nation and puts you within 70,000 of the total fellowship of the ancient order of Masons? Throughout the civilized world your growth has been equally phenomenal, until one writer has truly said: "The earth is your country and the human race your nation."

Many of us are not so fortunate as to know the secret ceremonies of your mystic order, but we all know the good you are doing, and the record of that work will stand an enduring monument to Odd-Fellowship in the far future when those builded of granite shall have crumbled into dust.

I am proud that you have assembled in this

city to renew allegiance to your worthy motto, "Friendship, Love, and Truth." Of these the greatest is truth. It is everlasting and universal, whether under the never varying sun of the equator, or in the frigid north where the snows are eternal and the nights have no end. The great truth of the golden rule, the corner-stone of your order, came down from the dim mists of ancient India to Judea and to us. It has survived the shock of empires and witnessed the decay of successive religions, but is alive to-day and will flow on in a perennial, undying stream after the lapse of ages yet to come.

I will not longer delay the important work before you, but again extend to you all a warm welcome to our city.

VISSERS CLAIM VETO MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, City of
Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 26, 1889.

To the Honorable Common Council,

Gentlemen :—By virtue of the authority vested in me I hereby suspend the action of the Common Council on Monday evening, February 25, 1889, by which the claim of Peter C. Vissers for \$1,000 damages for alleged damages was allowed and ordered paid.

From such investigation as I have been able to make to-day I am satisfied that a further examination of the facts in this case is demanded. I think it is extremely doubtful if the accident was occasioned by any defect in the sidewalk. I am also of the opinion that if Vissers has any just claim against the city, the city has an equally valid demand against the owner of the property in front of which the accident occurred. I advise that said owner be notified of the demand against the city at once, that he be brought into the negotiations for settlement, and if suit is commenced that he be tendered its defense.

I. M. WESTON, Mayor.

GRAND COUNCIL OF CHOSEN FRIENDS.

The fifth biennial session of the Grand Council of the Order of Chosen Friends of Michigan opened at Red Men's Hall, Grand Rapids, February 26, 1889. The Council was called to order by Grand Assistant Councillor Broadbent of Ovid. He introduced Mayor Weston, who delivered the following address of welcome :

Grand Councilor and Members of the Grand Council of Michigan, Order of Chosen Friends :

"Oh, my friends, there is no friend," was the saying of the greatest philosopher before the Christian era. This expression illustrates the spirit of progress, for only a few hundred years later the Divine Philosopher taught the great truth of "Love thy neighbor."

Old philosophy is extinct. To-day we are not only blest by the Christian religion, but also by innumerable charities, based upon its doctrines, as well as by many fraternities and orders

that could not exist under any philosophy that denied the existence of a friend. Among the many hundreds of modern fraternities we find the most prominent, for its age, the Order of Chosen Friends, having for its motto, "Friendship, Aid, and Protection." It is indeed, as a practical proceeding, well to mix a little business with friendship and fraternal feeling. Do not be a solitaire, no matter how brilliant.

It has been said that "whosoever is delighted in solitude, is either a wild beast or a god." Take the middle ground and be a man with friends, companions and associates. Friendship has great fruits. It enthrones peace in the affections, as there is nothing which opens the heart but a true friend to whom you may impart griefs and joys, hopes and fears. Communication redoubles the joys and cuts griefs in halves. Friendship also supports the judgment, for in confusion of thoughts only faithful counsel can make daylight appear through the understanding. An hour's communion may often outweigh a month's meditation. And, again, surely from friendship come aid and protection; for how many things there are in life which a man cannot do for himself, that a friend only can do for him. A friend is another self. We often die

leaving a wish of our heart unfulfilled, like that desire for the full protection in after life of dear ones surviving us, and if a man has true and chosen friends he may rest secure that the care of those will continue after him ; thus life is prolonged, for one can exercise those real desires of the heart through his friends, after death.

It gives me pleasure, therefore, to welcome you in behalf of this city, whose official seal has a motto which, rendered in English, says : " By action, it grows." By constant and restless action your Order achieves success. Material prosperity, peace, and good-will are the essential elements of civilization and progress.

This city cordially shakes hands to-day with the Chosen Friends, and may their mutual friendship continue, as well as their mutual progress and success.

Again a hearty welcome to you all.

Hon. Ed. E. Edwards, of Fremont Centre, Supreme Vice-Councilor, in behalf of the Chosen Friends, responded to the welcome extended by the Mayor.

The following evening the ladies of the local lodges gave a banquet at Germania Hall to the visiting members of the Order, at which Mayor Weston responded to the toast, "Grand Rapids."

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISES.

The following Special Message was delivered by Mayor Weston to the Common Council:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, City of
Grand Rapids, Mich., March 4, 1889.

To the Honorable Common Council;—The importance of three applications now before the Council is such that I feel called upon to communicate to you my views on the subject.

First—We have an ordinance passed to its second reading giving certain persons the right to organize a corporation, to construct, own, use, and maintain a plant in this city for the manufacture and supplying of fuel gas for lighting, heating, cooking, and power to this city and the inhabitants thereof, and giving permission and authority to lay pipes and conduits in any and all of the streets, avenues, lanes, alleys, and public grounds and spaces in and of said city for the period of thirty years from the date of the passage thereof.

The question of furnishing a cheap and safe fuel to the inhabitants of Grand Rapids is one of the most important which can be considered by this Council. Fuel is an absolute necessity in every household, is one of the principal items of expense in all families, and the poor man is required to purchase approximately the same quantity as the rich. Of hardly less importance is the question of cheap fuel in our large factories, which are the chief support of the city and our main reliance for future growth and prosperity.

An ordinance that gives a thirty-year privilege of furnishing a fuel which is quite liable during the coming thirty years to supersede coal and wood, demands the gravest consideration, that all proper precautions for the full protection of citizens be embodied in its provisions. The main object of any such ordinance is to promote the public convenience and welfare of our citizens, with a fair return of profit to the grantees, which, to us, is a secondary and incidental consideration.

If the charges made and service rendered that are to produce this profit are left to the judgment of the proposed corporation, with only a high maximum price fixed by the ordi-

nance, and no provision for its modification, the city is at the mercy of the agent it has created, and the main purpose is subordinated to the incidental. It is our duty to look after the fuel consumers in this bargain, and we can safely leave the care of the other side to those whose interests are all in that direction. The points of this ordinance, to which I would direct special attention, are:

First—That the term “fuel gas” is a broad general classification which includes gas made by a dozen different processes, at a cost ranging from 10 cents to 75 cents per 1,000 feet. Even “water” gas includes about the same range in cost. Gas carburetted with naphtha is in quite general use, and rivals the best coal gas in quality and costs about the same to produce, viz.: 50 cents to 75 cents per thousand. It is in fact a substitute for the best coal gas, differing only in the method of manufacture. From that we drop at once to another “water” gas, which is simply hydrogen gas, very cheap, colorless, odorless, and a deadly, dangerous poison. As a lighting gas it has never succeeded, and is deemed dangerous for domestic use; but has for many years been successfully used in this country and England in manufacturing estab-

lishments as an economical fuel, and its use in that direction is rapidly extending.

Probably the fuel of the future in cities will be of a gaseous nature, distributed from central reservoirs by pipes, with great economy to consumers and a happy relief from handling the cumbersome coal, wood, and other solid fuels of the present day.

The maximum price named in this ordinance precludes the use of carburetted water gas, and is positive proof that the manufacture and distribution of only the cheap, poisonous hydrogen gas is contemplated. This class of gas is so dangerous to life, as was lately demonstrated in Troy, N. Y., that its use should be permitted only under the most rigid restrictions. The proposed ordinance seems fatally defective and utterly wanting in those modern safeguards which municipal legislation, during the past decade, has usually embodied in franchises of this character for the public good.

Second—The maximum price as fixed by the ordinance is far too high. Common water gas can be produced for about 10 cents per thousand, and its distribution would not cost half as much more. Again it is only fair to assume that improvements and increased consumption

will materially reduce the cost of production during the coming thirty years.

Twenty-five years ago we paid the Grand Rapids Gas Company \$4 per thousand for coal gas, and to-day they furnish it, with equally good profit, for \$1 to \$1.25. In no part of this ordinance is there a provision which would enable the Council to secure for consumers any benefits arising from reduced cost of production. It leaves our citizens completely in the hands of the proposed corporation in this matter.

In the new gas franchise lately granted by the Common Council of Saginaw, Michigan, it is provided that the price of gas to all consumers shall be adjusted every five years by a commission appointed jointly by the citizens and the company. The London sliding-scale system, by which gas companies are allowed to increase their fixed maximum dividends in proportion as they decrease the price of gas, works well in England, and is attracting much attention in this country.

In many cities the Common Council reserves the right to absolutely fix the price of gas. It is true that the commercial character of the gas business operates to keep prices down to a certain extent, but, on the other hand, it is equally

true that the great cities of New York and Brooklyn have only lately applied to the Legislature for relief from the extortions of their consolidated gas companies, and thus obtained a reduction of about fifty cents per 1,000.

Third—This ordinance, which gives away a vast and valuable privilege, requires nothing from the company in return, except as they may feel disposed to grant it. There should be a strong guarantee that the company will build a plant of sufficient capacity to supply all our inhabitants who desire it with fuel gas of good quality, according to a standard to be fixed in the ordinance. As the ordinance now reads, it can be put on the market for a few months, and if no buyer is found, thrown up, with no loss to the grantees, as the expense incurred will all be on the side of the city. Again, if thought best to keep it alive, an experimental plant capable of supplying one factory will enable the owners to hold it over the city for thirty years, as it contains no provision as to the capacity of the proposed plant.

But the most serious omission in this connection is the failure to require the laying of a single mile of pipe in any direction, except in such sections of the city as the company feels

disposed to favor. In other words, it permits the proposed corporation to pipe the densely populated, profitable portion of the city, and let the inhabitants of the outlying districts get their gas fuel the best way they can. In franchises of this character we should adhere to the policy heretofore pursued in granting street-railway and other franchises, of compelling the grantees to take the lean with the fat, and make the compact part of the city help take care of the scattered portions. When we gave the Grand Rapids Gas Company its franchise more than thirty years ago, we inserted provisions which required it to provide for the residents of our outlying streets, and in this age of progress in municipal government, we should not be guilty of taking a step backward in a matter of such vital interest to a large portion of our citizens.

There are other objections to this ordinance which are general in their character, and will be discussed further on in connection with the other two applications.

Cheap and rapid transit to the suburbs, where those of moderate means can enjoy pure air and pure surroundings, is one of the essential things for this Council to provide and encourage. It protects the city from that overcrowding in the

central portions which is so productive of disease and crime in our larger cities.

Our Council and our street-railway companies have kept well abreast of the times in this respect. The two companies now holding franchises from the city have displayed great enterprise and liberality in building and operating many lines in the less populous parts of the city, where they cannot expect a fair return on their investments for some time to come. They have also given excellent equipment and service, and received from this Council that liberal treatment which they fairly deserved.

Any restrictions or burdens imposed, which would retard the growth of their systems, would be in the nature of a public calamity. Yet, I would suggest certain new provisions in all ordinances hereafter granted. And the present time, when applications (which I think have merits) from both companies are before the Council, would seem a proper one for their discussion.

First—We should require an absolute and effectual guarantee from every applicant for a franchise that the road proposed will be built. Of the street-railway franchises granted by this Council during the past three years, three

fourths have been allowed to lapse after being hawked around the country for buyers or backers. About a year ago one company obtained seventeen miles of franchises and has shown no disposition to utilize more than three miles of them. It is only fair to conclude that the other three fourths were obtained to block other companies or for purely speculative purposes. I do not depend on hearsay or conjecture, but repeat the frank admissions of prominent officials of both companies, when I charge them with pursuing this policy. This room has been set apart for legislation in the interest of the people, and it is no place for rival corporations to carry on their quarrels, or for franchise peddlers to pursue their calling.

Second—The present condition of our paved streets is a disgrace to the city. The evil is largely the result of careless work in replacing pavement when taken up to lay down or repair underground pipe, or street-railway tracks. All franchises hereafter granted should require a permit to take up pavement, and a fee should be charged sufficient to pay for competent supervision of the work contemplated.

Third—The question of deriving a revenue for the city from street-railway and other fran-

chises is one which deserves your serious consideration. Up to this time the earnings of the street-railway companies have not been such that the city could justly claim any share. The same condition is likely to continue for several years to come. But we must consider that this city is growing rapidly and has great prospects. Already one set of street-railway franchises, given away less than twenty years ago, have been sold for upward of \$100,000. It is only fair to presume that during the life of the franchises now asked, the business under them will become so profitable that it will be only just that the city participate in the profits, either by requiring the surplus above a liberal dividend to stockholders to be divided with the city, by payment of cash into the treasury, or a reduction of fares. In several cities various systems have been successfully adopted for such participation in street-railway earnings.

These suggestions in regard to street-railway franchises are equally applicable to the fuel-gas ordinance before the Council, and I would recommend that both the franchise ordinances which have passed to their second reading be referred to the Committee on Ordinances for further consideration. I. M. WESTON, Mayor.

FUEL GAS VETO MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, City of
Grand Rapids, Mich., March 15, 1889.

To the Honorable Common Council :

I hereby suspend the action of the Common Council on Thursday evening, March 14th, in passing what is known as the Fuel Gas Ordinance, for reasons generally given in my communication to the Council on Monday evening, March 4th.

My further objections, particularly stated, are :

First—While not opposed to safe fuel gas, legally introduced, or any other material designed to cheapen fuel or light, I cannot approve this ordinance, under our charter, in the form it was passed.

Second—That it permits the use of any odorless, poisonous, blue gas, throughout the city, absolutely without restriction. Such gas is destructive to human life, and is prohibited

by statute in several states from use in municipalities.

The protection to the city must necessarily rest entirely upon the express terms of the ordinance, and not upon the mere assertions of interested individuals, outside the ordinance. If the verbal promises to use only approximately safe fuel gas are to be honestly performed, why not put them in their natural and proper place--the ordinance itself? There is where they ought to be.

Third—I am confident that under our charter the Common Council has no authority to grant an ordinance permitting the use of poisonous fuel gas in the city.

The main purpose of this ordinance is admitted to be the supply of gas for fuel. At the time the charter was passed the use of gas was not known in Michigan as a fuel, nor for any other purpose than illumination. A strict construction of the charter ought not to prevail so as to prevent new uses of harmless gas for fuel and other purposes, but when the gas proposed to be used is not safe, but is poisonous and dangerous, the conditions are altered, and the exercise of the charter powers should be confined strictly to such use as was known at the time the charter was passed.

If the Council exceeds its authority in passing this ordinance, it will subject the city, and the proposed company, to paying any damages which may result from the poisonous gas.

Fourth—That it grants a franchise to a corporation yet to be formed, with stockholders and capital unknown.

Fifth—That the proposed \$15,000 bond would be a mere empty promise, giving the city no right to recover any substantial sum in case the grantees violate every word of the ordinance, as any injuries would be to individuals and not the city. The proposed bond only contemplates that the grantees shall carry out the provisions of a one-sided, defective ordinance. It is worse than no guarantee—it is a delusion and a humbug. The guarantee should be in the ordinance itself.

There are other objections, such as prices permitted in excess of those charged in other smaller cities, but those particularly mentioned seem sufficient.

I. M. WESTON, Mayor.

FIRST MICHIGAN CAVALRY REUNION.

The members of the First Michigan Cavalry Regiment met in the Superior Court room, Grand Rapids, March 27, 1889. The meeting was called to order by Dr. G. K. Johnson, of Grand Rapids, President of the Regimental Association. He introduced Mayor Weston for the welcoming address, which was as follows :

Members of the First Michigan Cavalry :

When the historian shall have completed the record of Michigan in the war, its brightest page will give the achievements of the Custer Cavalry Brigade. Led during the most important period of its history by a general who combined dash and daring with a clear head and iron nerve, it achieved a reputation unsurpassed by that of any other brigade in the service. Custer's leadership gave it renown, and the intelligence and bravery of the Michigan men who followed him largely made his reputation as the Murat of our army.

To-day Grand Rapids extends a cordial welcome to the members of the First Regiment of that brilliant brigade. Had you been behind Custer on that ill-fated day in the valley of the Yellowstone, history would have recorded a different result.

During the five years of your faithful service, fight succeeded fight with almost uninterrupted victories, from Virginia to the valleys of Utah. Two colonels, the brave and beloved Broadhead, and the Cromwellian commander, Town, laid down their lives at your head.

To your arm of the service, more than any other, fall the long marches, the fierce fighting, and the romance of war.

The life of a cavalryman is varied ; his horse is his friend ; his sabre his bride ; his wedding-tour a spirited campaign in the enemy's country. Then, again, he rushes into battle, like you at Gettysburg, charging the level lightnings and iron sleet, till the earth is covered thick with rider, horse, friend, and foe, in one red burial blent ; a hurricane to victory, glory won, and a nation saved. After this the cavalryman engages in the tranquil business of fighting Indians and awing Mormons ; then home again with friends and peace till the end comes, when the

good cavalryman to the world says Good-night,
and "lies down to pleasant dreams."

Sergeant Nahum Gilbert, of Allegan, responded in a brief address.

ELECTION PROCLAMATION.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, City of
Grand Rapids, Mich., March 29, 1889.

As required by an act of the Legislature to "maintain political purity," I hereby notify and warn all persons that saloons and other places where liquor is sold or disposed of must be closed during the entire day on Monday, the first day of April, 1889, that being a day of holding an election in this State according to law. Police officials, sheriffs, and constables are notified to enforce the provisions of the above act in this city.

I. M. WESTON, Mayor.

ST. MARK'S HOME AND HOSPITAL.

The ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the new St. Mark's Home and Hospital in Grand Rapids was performed Sunday, March 31, 1889. In the morning Rev. Dr. Fair delivered an appropriate address in St. Mark's Church. At the conclusion of the service the congregation moved in procession to the site of the proposed building, where Dr. G. K. Johnson, one of the trustees, made a short address, presented Mayor Weston with an elegant silver trowel, suitably engraved, and requested him to complete the laying of the corner-stone. In accepting the beautiful souvenir Mayor Weston said :

Mr. President :

A great German said, to give space for wandering is it, that the world was made so wide, while a witty Frenchman claims that it is only a place for one to get tired in. Were these views true, we would yet need many shelters

of safety and havens of rest. But the world under the broad doctrine of universal human brotherhood comprehends much more than mere wandering and ennui. The purpose of Christianity is not, as is often supposed, exclusively to save the souls of men hereafter, but also to found a kingdom of heaven on earth. Immortality begins here, not hereafter. Christianity is a religion of progress and universal unity. True the sword is not yet beaten into a ploughshare, but men no longer wear swords by their sides to defend themselves from attack. One of the great results of the vigorous application of Christianity to the affairs of life is the establishment of hospitals and retreats. This progress will continue until the people of the future will have more millions in charities and less in iron-clads.

Mr. Butterworth, a benevolent and kind man, believing that the earth should afford to the unfortunate some other asylum than its own cold bosom, has endowed this home, and to-day it gives us pleasure to lay the corner-stone of an institution which will be not only a source of pride to our city, but another sanctuary in the world to help spread heaven around us.

Mayor Weston stepped to the stone, and tapping it three times with his trowel, said :

"In accordance with the request of the Trustees, I hereby complete the laying of this corner-stone, and pronounce it well and properly laid. I trust the structure to be reared upon it may stand through many future generations, a grand monument to the noble man whose bounty built it."

The choir sang "Glory to God in the Highest," after which Dr. Fair pronounced the benediction and the large crowd dispersed.

HOME RULE FOR CITIES.

The following address was delivered by Mayor Weston at a dinner given by him to the city officials at the Morton House, April 2, 1889 :

Gentlemen of the City Government :

For nearly a century the relative rights of state and national governments were ably and fully discussed. The controversy opened when George Washington called the first federal convention to order, and closed with the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.

The decision was a victory for the central-government idea, and the dividing line between state and national authority became definitely defined. Subsequent legislation only carried into effect the principles which had prevailed.

During the period when our early constitutions were under consideration the country was composed mainly of agricultural communities, and the problems since presented by our metro-

politan cities were not considered by the statesmen who moulded our forms of government. Then the metropolis of the country had but 38,000 population, and only four other cities in the Union exceeded 10,000. Detroit had only 2,200 inhabitants when our State constitution was adopted. Now New York City is more populous than our two leading States were when admitted to the Union. In fifty years the proportion of population residing in cities has increased from one twelfth to one third. Yet now, with 50 American cities, varying from 50,000 to 1,500,000, we are struggling along, in most of the States, with the primitive, rural constitutions of our forefathers. As cities grow, disease, crime, and turbulence increase in a still greater ratio, and the systems of government provided for townships and small cities fail to meet their requirements.

The rapid growth of our large cities during the past thirty years has forced the defects of our ancient constitutions upon public attention, and produced an earnest discussion of the relations of states to municipalities, which has resulted in a marked decentralization of state power in favor of local self-government. The demand for home rule, and the prohibition by

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constitutional provisions of special municipal legislation, have become general. In Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, and eight other states, with constitutions recently revised, such legislation is forbidden, and general laws for the incorporation and government of cities are required.

The problems presented by these outgrown cities cannot be solved by charter tinkering; there must be a radical and fundamental reform. The work is well under way, and until every state constitution shall prohibit special charters and confer home rule upon our cities, their inhabitants will not have received the full benefit of those principles of freedom for which our forefathers fought.

The residents of our townships are contented and well governed, for the simple reason that they are allowed full control of their strictly local affairs under the direction of general state laws. Would not the same freedom extended to the cities produce a like condition? For who knows better the wants and requirements of a city than its inhabitants?

Any extended consideration of the question of local self-government takes us back to the Puritan, who came to America under the ban-

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ner of "Freedom to worship God," and burned those who disagreed with him about forms of church government. In the work of establishing a religious reform, he rejected the broad and liberal principles which command success, and his church failed to lead those preceding it, but in what was to him a secondary consideration, he rose to the situation and planted at Plymouth a political system which is to-day the basis of all our state and national governments.

The principal feature of the Puritan system is the town meeting. Each township is a complete republic, and every voter a member of the legislative body which discusses and decides all local matters. All are experienced statesmen, trained to self-reliance, intelligence, and love of freedom, and throughout New England it stands to-day, as established two hundred and fifty years ago, the purest, simplest, strongest republican form of government known to man.

It was my good fortune to spend the early years of my life in a New England township, where I saw the electors assemble annually in their town-hall. They chose a moderator to preside, heard official reports, elected select-men, who were also assessors, directors of schools, of the poor, and of the highways, and transacted all other

Business

township business. The meeting then considered the question of appropriations, and each item in the town budget was fully discussed and voted upon by a showing of hands. The right of representation was carried to the extent that in one town an unfortunate victim of diffidence was allowed to bring his wife to give expression to his ideas.

Jefferson said: "These wards called townships in New England are the vital principle of their governments, and have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government and its preservation. Where every man is a sharer in the direction of his ward republic, or of some of the higher ones, and feels that he is a participator in the government of affairs, not merely at an election one day in the year, but every day; when there shall not be a man in the State who will not be a member of some one of its councils, great or small, he will let the heart be torn out of his body sooner than allow his power to be wrested from him by a Cæsar or a Bonaparte."

For the germ of the town-meeting system we must go back to the German Folk-mote of the fifth century. Hengist and Horsa transplanted

this idea of local self-government to England and from there the Puritan brought it to America. Even before landing, in the cabin of the *Mayflower*, the little band signed that famous compact to be mutually bound by laws which all were to have a voice in framing. In pursuance of that idea they planted on the granite hills of New England, in the original purity of its German youth, with a revival of what had been forgotten or trampled out in England, that system of subordinate commonwealths which has become the central political idea of this nation.

In proof of the attachment of the Puritans to their town meeting, we find that in 1784, when Boston had attained a population of 18,000, the town meeting appointed a committee to consider and remedy the defects of township organization. Samuel Adams, as chairman of that committee, reported back that the system had no defects. Boston continued a town until 1822, when it had a population of 40,000, and only one fourth of the voters could be accommodated in any of its halls. Even then a city charter was accepted after much opposition and serious fears from such eminent statesmen as John Adams and Josiah Quincy.

Michigan was the first State in the northwest to adopt the New England town-meeting idea. Lewis Cass, reared among the hills of New Hampshire, knew and appreciated its value, and while Michigan was yet a territory, he as governor gradually abandoned the appointment of county and township officers, and urged and even required the people to elect them. In discussing the question, he said: "In proportion, as governments recede from the people, they become liable to abuse. Whatever authority can be conveniently exercised in primary assemblies may be deposited there with safety. They furnish practical schools for the consideration of political subjects, and no one can revert to the history of our revolutionary struggle without being sensible that to their operation we are indebted for much of the energy, unanimity, and intelligence which was displayed by our government and people at that important crisis."

While we have adopted the New York modification of a county board of supervisors, an innovation of questionable utility, we have preserved in our townships the main features of the New England town meeting. All money is raised and expended by a direct vote of the people, who also adopt such local by-laws and

regulations as appear necessary. In short, whatever is local in character and affecting the township only, is subject to the control of the voters assembled in town meeting.

To this system we must look for the primary principles of any reformation giving home rule to our cities.

Fundamental functions of city government are of two distinct classes, says Cooley: "Public and private. The first pertaining to enforcement of the State laws, but in the capacity in which they act for the benefit of their corporations merely, there would seem to be no sufficient reason for a power in a State to make them move and act at its will more than in the case of any private corporation, and matters of importance to themselves only, it would naturally be supposed, should be left to the judgment of their citizens and their chosen officers."

The latter function pertains to public works, schools, local police, fire protection, and supplying water and gas, and exceeds the former in number and importance.

It is an extraordinary fact that the inhabitants of cities in Germany enjoy greater freedom in the way of local self-government than those in the United States. The new German con-

stitution declares that cities may establish all sorts of institutions and engage in all kinds of enterprises which can further the material or intellectual welfare of their members. The municipal assembly elected by the citizens deliberates upon and decides all local questions, and the general government cannot interfere in local matters except to approve the election, by the people, of their purely executive officials.

The cities of France under the municipal corporation act of 1884 are governed by a municipal council, elected by the inhabitants, which decides all local matters. The prefect appointed by the general government approves such legislation, only, as is extraordinary and exceeds the authority conferred upon the council.

The English Parliament has been more generous in its grants than the American legislatures. The municipal corporation act of 1882 confers great powers upon municipal corporations, giving them full control of strictly local matters, although the general government exercises supervision over public education, charities, and the judiciary. Cities are even allowed to purchase land and build and rent lodging-houses. London has outgrown its ancient charter, and the Grand Old Man of England is

now preparing a new home-rule charter for the metropolis of the world.

The claim of the impracticable doctrinaires, that municipal government should be separated from politics, is hardly worthy of serious discussion. Where there are elective officers there politics always have been and always will be. No administration, either national, state, or municipal, can attain the higher degree of efficiency without well organized, aggressive political parties supporting it and opposing it. We nominate candidates for office on account of availability, but the politician who attains leadership in his party must do it by virtue of his ability and merit. As a public official he is shrewd, active, obedient to public sentiment, and generally honest, for no man can long retain leadership among his fellows without that qualification ; but they are practical, and seldom work for abstract patriotism.

In municipal, as in private corporations, to obtain first-class ability you must appeal to the selfish interest of man—his love either of money, power, or fame. I have little confidence in non-partisan boards or citizens' committees made up of men absorbed in their private business ; they will not give either time or thought to munici-

pal matters. As a rule, first-class service in public offices can be obtained only from men with political ambition, whose views should harmonize with those of the party in power.

When New York was groaning under the burden of the corrupt Tweed dynasty, her citizen committees met and resolved, and continued to meet and resolve, and still the ring fattened until Mr. Tilden, an able and ambitious politician, saw an opportunity to make himself governor, and perhaps president, by destroying the unholy combination. With that idea he undertook and accomplished the work. Unfaithful officials have a supreme contempt for the ephemeral work of spasmodic committees, but they have a well-founded dread of the organized opposition of a political party, with a tangible interest in their overthrow. Even the much-abused ward politician is no worse, no better than the leaders who employ and control him, and who in turn are governed by the public sentiment of the community in which they live.

It is conceded that a city government has no power, except that conferred upon it by the State Legislature, which can amend or repeal at pleasure, subject only to constitutional restrictions.

A city can be governed only by its local legislature or the legislature of the state, and I contend that the power should be conferred upon the former instead of the latter. A large majority of the members of our state legislatures are elected from agricultural communities, and are not familiar with the question of municipal government. On matters pertaining to cities they generally act as the local representative or interested committees request. Excepting the local members, they vote indifferently, as they are free from responsibility to the parties affected. On the other hand, the members of the local legislative body in any city are elected on issues affecting the city, and are thoroughly familiar with the wants and requirements of their constituents. Every day they come in contact with the men who elect them, and to whom they are directly responsible for all their acts. Always looking to their political future, they are keenly sensitive to public opinion. If incompetent men are elected to the city legislatures, it is all the more reason that the citizens should be educated and developed by placing full power in local hands, then taxpayers will realize their responsibilities and see that only good men are selected to represent them.

When the reforms now in progress shall have been completed, we will find the municipal government of the future in full control of local affairs with legislative restrictions, limiting taxation and indebtedness, clearly defining the respective functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the local government, and requiring all bonded indebtedness to be passed upon by the people at the polls.

The Anglo-Saxon nations have, as the source of their national virtues, a strong sense of duty and a steadfast love of liberty. Other nations may have surpassed them in qualities merely beautiful, but it is the merit of this race that it alone produces great men who, though careless for glory, are careful of honor. The spirit of liberty in this mighty people uttered its first written canon in *Magna Charta*; its last written law is the feature in all new constitutions, which is bringing the affairs of local government home to the doors of the people, by a total prohibition against legislators, sitting under the domes of distant capitols, from in any way invading the new bulwark of liberty—home rule for cities.

FAREWELL MESSAGE.

At the last session of the Common Council of Grand Rapids, April 30, 1889, the farewell message of Mayor Weston, showing receipts and disbursements for the year and the general financial condition of the city, was presented. Thursday evening, May 2d, Mayor Weston gave a Dancing Reception at the Morton House, and closed his term of office on the following Monday.

APPENDIX.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The Grand Rapids Democrat, the official paper of the city, in its issue of May 17, 1889, published the following editorial:

EX-MAYOR WESTON'S RECORD.

The new city administration assumed the management of municipal matters during the past week, and appears to be giving general satisfaction.

Mr. Weston retires from the mayor's office with the record of a brilliant and successful official. His liberal education, trained business habits, and great fund of general information upon all matters pertaining to municipal government, enabled him to give Grand Rapids a strong, intelligent, and popular administration. His formal recommendations to the Common Council were always of a character that received the hearty approval of thinking citizens. Even his reception speeches were replete with

strong and original ideas happily expressed, and on all occasions he showed himself a chief executive of whom our citizens were justly proud.

His prominence in business and political circles has given him more of a national reputation and acquaintance than any other resident of Grand Rapids, and this has enabled him to accomplish much in promoting the progress and prosperity of this city. He exercised his veto power but twice. In one case he was sustained by the Common Council, and in the other by the honest, intelligent sentiment of the city.

It was a bold step for Mr. Weston to accept the nomination a year ago. His position as Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, and acting member of the National Committee for Michigan had made him the trusted adviser of the National Administration for Western Michigan and numerous disappointed office-seekers and jealous politicians were not slow in joining the determined and confident Republicans in their bitter fight against him. No candidate ever encountered stronger opposition in this city. An immense campaign fund raised by the Republicans brought a large majority of the disreputable element into line against him. But right triumphed and Mr. Weston received

the largest number of votes which had ever been polled for any candidate for mayor in Grand Rapids.

The fierce opposition of the Republicans throughout the State was a gratifying compliment to Mr. Weston's Democratic leadership, and when the State Convention assembled a few weeks later, he was nominated for first Delegate-At-Large to the Democratic National Convention at St. Louis, and for a second term as State Chairman by unanimous acclamation, amid the wildest enthusiasm.

During the year Mayor Weston presided over forty-five meetings of the Common Council. He was the only city official who did not receive or ask the maximum salary allowed by law, and the mayor's office was open daily for the convenience of citizens and visitors by the employment of a clerk without expense to the city.

Always interested and active in whatever would advance the city, Mayor Weston's policy was to aid in forward movements, to check as far as possible backward steps and to stamp out any thing approaching stagnation. His personal influence in helping and advertising the city from Maine to California was something within the power of few other citizens to do.

That his record as mayor has been satisfactory was conclusively shown by the fact that in the late local campaign, in which a staunch Democrat was elected his successor, not a Republican organ, orator, or henchman used as an argument against Democratic candidates any charge or allegation against the administration of Mr. Weston as mayor or against any of his admirable appointees. No commendation could be stronger than this negative endorsement of political opponents.

He conferred dignity on the office, honor on himself, and strength upon his party.

MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Executive Press Committee, on February 15, 1889, to arrange for the annual meeting of the State Association to be held in Grand Rapids, July 9th, 10th, and 11th, Mayor Weston was appointed Chairman of the Citizens Executive Committee. Later he was selected to deliver one of the addresses of welcome, but being in New York when the Association met, he sent the following letter, which was read at the morning session July 10th :

NEW YORK, N. Y., July 8, 1889.

W. H. Brearley, Esq., President Michigan Press Association :

Sir—I regret that important business will prevent me from attending the opening session of the Press Association. Until last evening I had expected to add my words of welcome to those of our mayor on your arrival in Grand Rapids. I desired to express my appreciation

of the work of your organization in promoting the prosperity of our State, and to congratulate you upon your prominent part in the marvellous growth of American journalism during the first century of our republic.

To-day we publish 15,000 newspapers in the United States, three times more than any other country, and over a third of the combined issue of the whole world. Our circulation gives four papers a week to each family of five in this country. From 1850 to 1880 the growth of newspapers in the United States was 500 per cent., while the increase in population was but 100 per cent. What higher tribute could be paid to the intelligent enterprise of American journalists !

Our improvement during the century just ended in material wealth and the comforts and conveniences of life, in intelligence, refinement, temperance, and public and private morality, is unsurpassed in the history of the world, and journalism has, more than any other profession, led the movement of progress and contributed more than any other factor to the gratifying result. As a public educator, commencing where the common school ends, journalism has overtaken and passed the pulpit, crowded to

one side the library and lecturer, and taken unquestioned leadership in the grand march of civilization in America.

In this connection it is interesting to note the changes in American journalism during its short but phenomenal growth, and compare its rank with that of the profession in other countries. For this purpose I classify journalism into three departments—editorial, news, and general literature. We have seen the great editor pass away and the great newspaper take his place. The editorials of English and German newspapers continue long-drawn, learned, ponderous, and complete—exhaustive to both writer and reader. The French editor, like the French cook, gives a very agreeable meal from a small stock of raw material. He is flippant and brief, but bright, breezy, and entertaining. He believes and practises the axiom that manner is every thing, matter nothing. The American editorialist happily and successfully draws from both schools, avoiding the two extremes, and giving short instruction and entertainment combined. But with us the pointed, pungent paragraph is rapidly crowding out the labored leader. The editorial writer finds it best to touch his subject lightly and leave much to the

reason and imagination of the reader. Many resent too much instruction and must be led by invisible strings. The writer who asks the reader to use his judgment avails himself of that most potent persuader, flattery. It is generally admitted that woman is very fond of flattery; in fact, I know of but one production of the Creator more so, and that is man. Essays will continue to live in monthlies and philosophical weeklies, but are too slow for the daily and weekly newspapers of to-day. In these, the telegraph has hastened their downfall. Closely following the report of great political, legal, financial, military, or commercial events comes the work of the talented interviewers at the centres of population, by wire, the opinions of the best expert authorities on the subjects before the public. Under these circumstances there is no demand for the opinions of amateurs. The editorial page must go, and in its place we will have short, explanatory editorials directly annexed to all important news reports.

The news editor has become the most important man on the modern newspaper. The physician can feel the pulse of his patient and unfailingly treat him, but the news editor must have perception and discrimination to foretell

the pulse of the people to-morrow, and determine what they will want. At daybreak he must serve all interesting and important events transpiring up to midnight in Europe, Asia, and Africa. He must not only decide what to print, but how to give it the most attractive form, for he has long ago discovered that the editor who makes his news plain, bright, and crisp succeeds, when dulness and prolixity fail. He must boil down and present with polished point and pertinence, and within reasonable and readable limits. His dear readers imperatively demand that the most abstruse and complicated matters shall be readily read and assimilated between their sips of coffee at early breakfast. The work of the news editor is enlarging the modern newspaper to unwieldy proportions, which in the near future will give news gathering an elective character, and hasten the already rapid development of class journalism to a point where refined professors will not be shocked by reports of prize fights, or the admirers of the manly art bored by column accounts of college commencements. In this line of news gathering, the best newspapers of England alone are fully abreast of ours.

The third and most modern department of

journalism is miscellaneous library reading. Americans are no longer willing to wait for the slow process of book publication to learn the moral and intellectual movements of modern life, or the latest developments in the world of science. They have but short periods for musty books, and with the present development of what may well be termed the department of common-sense literature in our best newspapers, have but little need of them. The talent and skill of our editors, writers, and engravers, who have done so much to elevate and adorn the art of journalism, have enabled us to lead the world in this feature of newspaper work. In proof of this I need only cite the case of Michigan's leading weekly, in the line of general literature, which to-day has more readers in England than the United States.

What I have said applies largely to daily papers, and now one word in regard to that more numerous and equally important class of journals, the country weeklies. The daily must naturally lead in quantity of news and scope of editorials, but the country editor can attain success in his field by faithful attention to local matters and strict adherence to the rule of properly presenting such news. All readers like

subjects of which they have a preliminary knowledge. Give a large variety of items and present them briefly, always remembering that chips burn brighter than the backlog.

In conclusion, I claim that the onward march of journalism in America and in Michigan, during the past century, is a source of pride to the profession and the public. It has no government subsidies—it wants none. It rests secure on the financial foundation of public patronage on its merits. Every newspaper in this country is a private enterprise published with the same motive, which, as a rule, leads people into all other occupations and professions, that of keeping full the family flour barrel. The public does not own the paper, or the paper the public, and neither has a right to complain of a lack of appreciation on the part of the other. Both stand free and independent without just claim to gratuitous services from each other. The public, to which the newspaper caters, is cold, critical, exacting, and will buy where it can get the most for its money. Merit, and merit alone, succeeds. Yet, under these conditions, we have seen a vast improvement in the moral tone of newspapers during the past few decades. As arguments, cheap personalities have been

left to those who are mentally incapable of discussing principles, and in many other ways have objectionable features of journalism been eliminated. To-day American journalism as a whole leads the community in its moral standard, and its strength and virility give promise of an increasing growth and influence in the century to come.

Truly yours,

I. M. WESTON.

After the reading of the letter Mr. Weston was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Association.

THE CALIFORNIANS.

In performing his duties as U. S. Railroad Commissioner, Mayor Weston made a trip to the Pacific coast in April, 1889, and on his return gave his impressions of the Californians in the Grand Rapids Democrat of May 5th as follows:

Two weeks ago to-day Senator Stanford gave me, as a reason why California had the best horses in the country, the fact that the pioneers, when starting for their long and hard trip across the plains, selected only the very best animals. From them came the present California stock. The same rule can be applied to the men who in 1849 and for ten years afterwards went to California for fortune and fame. They were picked men of the United States, enterprising and intelligent. What impressed me most was these men, who yet largely control the business of the Golden State. They are like the men of New York City, which attracts the best blood

in the country. If you cannot convince one in five minutes, you may as well quit. It takes him but a short time to decide what to do, and there is a dash and daring about his execution which never fails to charm. He is liberal to others, and to himself. He takes big chances, and many fall by the way-side, but there is a disposition to help those who fall, which you do not find in New York.

As a rule, the Californian lives well up to his income, and does not wait until he is a broken-down man to get any benefit from his wealth. The piling up of a fortune to breed bad feeling among his heirs is not the highest object of his life. You cannot criticise him unkindly, for he rides into your affections at a 2:20 gait and holds you spell-bound by his profuse hospitality. All you need is a good constitution to be agreeably entertained in California. They are the most liberal and warm-hearted people on earth, and never allow business to interfere with hospitality. There are no single-furrow men among them. Nothing short of a six-gang plough with ten horses in front and a pair of spotted dogs behind satisfies them. They look with contempt on a farm of less than 1,000 acres. At Vina I visited the 55,000-acre farm of United States

Senator Stanford, costing \$1,000,000 in an unimproved condition. It now has a 3,500-acre vineyard, the largest in the world; two acres of wine cellar, in which the cooperage alone cost \$100,000, with a capacity of 2,000,000 gallons, and 25,000 head of fine blooded stock. A little farther down the Sacramento River a wheat field of 17,000 acres forms an adjunct to his Vina farm, while at Palo Alto he took us to see his garden, which contains 8,000 acres, in residence and university grounds, wheat fields, vineyards, and stock ranges. Here his most famous horses are stabled and here he is building the grand Leland Stanford, Jr., university, to which he gives a \$20,000,000 endowment, and of which I will tell you more later. We passed one wheat field of 42,000 acres, belonging to another investor; also one cattle ranch which includes 900,000 acres of pasturage belonging to two men. Our lumbermen think a ten-mile railroad quite an achievement. The Pacific slope has one artificial watercourse for floating lumber, built of plank, seventy miles long, for the accommodation of one company.

In performing my duties as United States Railroad Commissioner, I inspected twenty-five miles of railroad over the Siskiyou Mountains,

the boundary between California and Oregon, on a grade at times of 174 feet per mile. It rises and falls 2,500 feet. I said to C. P. Huntington, First Vice-President of the Southern Pacific Company, that it was a wonderful engineering achievement. He replied: "It is the best we could do just at present: we have so many lines under construction. But soon we shall tunnel that range." I remarked that that would be a big job,—the longest tunnel in the world. "Yes," he said, "it will be, but I rather like big jobs. I expect to see our company build that before I die." Every thing is done on a magnificent scale. The Californian plays for a palace or a poor-house every time, and his nerve, energy, and intelligence make him winner in a majority of his ventures.

I was impressed by the contrast between the country and its inhabitants. It has a lazy, luxurious, Italian climate; nature is generous beyond limit. The soil is the most fertile in the world. Combining these natural advantages with the picked energy transplanted from the northeastern States, gives a combination which has produced prodigious results. A remark dropped by Senator Stanford in the same

interview, that "no man would labor except to supply a want," suggested the thought; will the present prosperity of California continue through the succeeding generation, or will the same lethargy overtake it which has generally characterized those countries where nature does so much more than its share of the work? The young men who went to California in the '50's, developed the State, and developed themselves by creating an empire in a new and wild country thousands of miles beyond the then limits of civilization, are rapidly passing away. When I looked over the fertile valleys, the granite hills, and broken streams of pure water in Oregon, I could not help thinking that the coming century of this republic, would see the centre of population move north from the Golden Gate to where nature presents more obstacles. But this probably will not trouble the present generation.

If a person has but two weeks to spend in California and wants to see the most of it, his best plan would be to stand still in San Francisco and watch it go by. That city is, emphatically, the metropolis of the Pacific coast. There you meet the representatives of every county and every class in the State. It is more

like New York than any other city in the United States. There is the same energy and intelligent push. It is much more picturesque, about as luxurious, more attractive in climate, and just as wicked. The other California cities are merely large country villages. The whole State centres at the Golden Gate, where you will find as fine hotels, theatres, and clubs as there are in any other part of the United States

STATE DENTAL CONVENTION.

The thirty-fourth annual convention of the Michigan State Dental Association met in Elks Hall, Grand Rapids, June 4, 1889. Dr. C. S. Case, of Jackson, President of the Association, introduced ex-Mayor Weston, who gave the visitors the following welcome:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Michigan State Dental Association:

Very important business in the State Legislature called Mayor Killeen to Lansing to-day, and last evening I received this letter:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, City of
Grand Rapids, Mich., June 3, 1889.

Hon. I. M. Weston:

DEAR SIR—I regret my inability to be present to-morrow morning to welcome the members of the Michigan State Dental Association on their arrival in our city. I desire through you to tender to them a cordial welcome in behalf of

our citizens and municipality, and to extend to them for me all courtesies the circumstances may require. Please read this communication and make such other remarks as may to you seem proper for the occasion.

Very respectfully,

JOHN KILLEAN, Mayor.

Permit me also, as a citizen of Grand Rapids, to thank you gentlemen for the honor conferred by holding your annual convention here, and to add that every resident of our city joins in Mayor Killean's warm welcome.

While it may be true that you do not always follow the scriptural rule of "a tooth for a tooth," it is true that you have adopted the time rule in charging, which I presume accounts for your philosophical temperaments, for we all know that dentists as a class are the most agreeable of men, and why not? Men whose services are gauged by time have none of the perplexities which attend those who do job work.

When working by the hour, one gently sails on the stream of time to the haven of pay. Such men never swear, for how sweet the flight of time seems to their tranquil minds!

Lavater says: "As are the teeth of man, so is his taste." If this be true, Americans are the most refined of people, for we have twice as

many dentists as all other nations combined, and they excel in skill as in numbers.

It also occurs to me that we are in the centennial decade, and it is interesting to note that the dawn of dentistry in America was one hundred years ago, when Dr. Greenwood opened the first dental office in New York, and constructed for George Washington an entire set of artificial teeth "carved from ivory and secured in the mouth by spiral springs." If we accept contemporary history as to the trials and tribulations which befell the Father of his Country from those ivories, we are led to the conclusion that their construction was somewhat on the plan of a modern Kalamazoo spring tooth harrow. No stronger proof is needed of the progress in your profession during the past century.

From the blacksmith work of that day the dentists have advanced by steady, intelligent progress to the rank of an artistic profession. This exemplifies that excellence in any art or handicraft can only be achieved by dint of painstaking labor. Every skilled touch of brush, chisel, or tool is the product of unremitting study, and one who intelligently labors in his profession is sure to do much, and his growth in power will be as steady as the increasing light of sunrise.

POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

The last meeting of the old Board of Police and Fire Commissioners of Grand Rapids was held April 28, 1887, when President I. M. Weston submitted the following annual report: Gentlemen of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners:

In accordance with the custom of my predecessors, I will briefly review the workings of the Board during the past year, and submit a few recommendations, which I think entitled to your consideration.

During the last two years I have visited many of our leading cities and taken occasion to carefully examine the organization and workings of their police and fire departments. After such examinations I am fully convinced that Grand Rapids can rightfully claim a degree of police and fire protection very far in advance of the average of our cities, and I have yet to find in

any city of its size more complete and efficient departments.

For this condition of affairs we are largely indebted to the policy of making all our appointments purely non-partisan. This rule has been rigidly followed by the present Board in the face of much adverse criticism from over-zealous politicians who would have us use funds given the Board by tax-payers for the protection of life and property to build up political parties. I hope the day is far distant when political considerations will influence appointments in these departments, which, even in New York City, have always been kept above the mire of politics.

That our Police Department has been efficient in the prevention and detection of crime is surely shown by the steady decrease in the number of offenses during the past five years, notwithstanding an increase of more than 50 per cent. in population for the same period. It is a well settled principle that crime decreases in the same ratio that certainty of punishment increases, and the absence of crime is the unerring test of an efficient police department. The record of police arrests in Grand Rapids for five years past is as follows: 1882, 1,996; 1883

1,821; 1884, 1,483; 1885, 1,413; 1886, 1,460; 1887, for three months, 247. Our police officials have good reason to be proud of this showing. Supt. Perry, Sergeants Johnson and Hurley, and the officers and employés under them have been thorough and intelligent in the discharge of their not always pleasant duties. The police department is frequently subjected to unjust criticism for failure to enforce certain laws. It should be remembered that we can only arrest, and it is for others to prosecute and convict. Crude and careless legislation frequently makes a desirable law inoperative. Again public sentiment expressed through juries often prevents proper enforcement of many laws.

The reduction to eight hours work a day for each patrolman since October, 1885, has resulted in a marked improvement in the health of the men and corresponding increase of efficiency in the discharge of their duties. I would recommend the repeal of the rule requiring patrolmen to shave the lower part of their face. I think much sickness is caused in the winter season by this senseless rule, which also gives the men an effeminate appearance not always becoming to a policeman. I do not advocate Buffalo whiskers,

but neatly trimmed beards would certainly be unobjectionable.

The business portion of our city is well patrolled and protected, but with 141 miles of streets and only 13 men for each watch of eight hours, it is impossible to cover the residence part of the city. Two years ago I recommended to the Board the placing of 50 to 100 call boxes, costing from \$5 to \$15 each, the same as fire-alarm boxes, with keys left with responsible parties in the immediate vicinity, to be located outside of the beats now patrolled. With them a patrol wagon could be summoned day or night to any point where it was needed. My design was to protect the outside residence portions of the city, but the committee to whom the matter was referred reported in favor of the present expensive signal system, which puts a few \$150 boxes, with telephones, on the regular patrol beats only. I still think that we needed the call boxes more than the present system, which is in no sense a substitute, and gives no protection to the unpatrolled streets of the city. Most of the petty thieving and depredations committed in the residence sections is due to the carelessness of property owners, but much can be done by detectives to

protect citizens from such work by a strict surveillance of suspicious persons. I would recommend that our detective department be strengthened by having two or more patrolmen each day generally patrol the thickly settled quarters in citizen's clothes, instead of putting them all on regular beats in uniform. This plan has been adopted in New York City with excellent results. Uniformed men are useful mainly for preserving order, and can do but little in detecting criminals.

The expenses of our police department have increased very rapidly during the past five years. The increase has more than equalled the growth of the city, as will be seen by the following figures: 1882, \$23,133 48; 1883, \$28,966 66; 1884, \$33,662 83; 1885, \$35,829 79; 1886, \$42,700 95.

I think several items included in our estimate made last September can be stricken out without impairing the efficiency of the department.

We now have two patrol wagons with three horses, three drivers, and one saddle-horse. The calls answered by the wagons during the eleven months ending April 1st, were as follows:

May.....	91 calls, 110 miles travelled
June.....	99 calls, 118 miles travelled

July	99 calls, 120 miles travelled
August.....	116 calls, 137 miles travelled
September.....	101 calls, 109 miles travelled
October.....	82 calls, 90 miles travelled
November.....	89 calls, 85 miles travelled
December.....	74 calls, 83 miles travelled
January.....	48 calls, 56 miles travelled
February.....	54 calls, 63 miles travelled
March.....	82 calls, 93 miles travelled

showing an average of less than three calls per day, with one mile of travel to each. One wagon is certainly sufficient for this work. The single-horse wagon, the saddle-horse, and one or two drivers are not needed. There is no legitimate work about police headquarters for patrol wagons except to answer calls. There is no more reason for using them to bring witnesses to the police court than to any other court in the city.

I am also of the opinion that the two clerks at headquarters are unnecessary now that a sergeant is constantly at the station. In New York City the sergeants keep their own registers at station houses where the arrests average 150 a day, and they should do the same here.

The position of roundsman has already been abolished. With the station in charge of a sergeant the superintendent can spend the

greater portion of his time outside and keep track of what is going on. The law now requires him to make weekly visits to all places where liquor is sold at retail, and that of itself will keep him much of the time on the various beats.

I question if one court officer would not be sufficient at the police court instead of two who are now detailed for that purpose.

Under the efficient management of Marshal Lemoin and Assistants Baxter and Bettinghouse, the expenses of the Fire Department have been kept at the lowest point. The full-pay firemen build and keep in repair all our fire- and police-alarm lines, make all repairs on engine-houses, and do the finishing work on new buildings.

With the completion of the new No. 3 house on the west side we will have comparatively new and very complete houses for all our companies. I would recommend that No. 7 house and lot in the Sixth ward be sold. It has been unused for several years and can never be needed, as the locality is well covered by Nos. 3 and 5. If in the future the Sixth ward requires an engine-house, it should be located farther west than Scribner street.

Our apparatus is in fair condition. I would recommend the purchase of a new hose wagon for No. 2 house on the hill, to replace the old-fashioned reel cart which is well worn out.

No. 8 steamer is getting old, worn, and unreliable. A new steamer will be needed there before long.

At the time No. 8 house was built, this Board strongly urged its location at the west end of Fulton Street bridge, so that it would cover the First and Third as well as the Eighth ward. But the citizens of the Eighth ward wanted it located near the centre of the ward, where it would be convenient for caucus and election purposes, and prevailed upon the Common Council to adopt their views. It is wrong that an engine-house costing \$15,000 to build and equip and \$8,000 a year to maintain should not be located where it would afford the greatest protection to the property of the whole city which is taxed for it. In order to guard against such impositions in the future the Board has refused the further use of engine-houses for caucus and election purposes.

The placing of a steamer at No. 6 house on Grandville Avenue, or some other point in the southeastern part of the city, will be a necessity

before many years. A year ago we added five Pompier scaling-ladders to our apparatus and the men are drilled weekly in their use.

I would recommend a slight increase in the pay of our firemen. Our experienced men are constantly leaving to accept better pay outside. I would also recommend that the pay of foremen and engineers be graded according to the length of service, the same as we now do with drivers, laddermen, and pipemen.

The problem of more water-pipes and better pressure is one which demands the immediate attention of property owners in this city. We have but 27 miles of pipe to 141 miles of streets, nearly all built up.

On Canal street the pressure on our hydrants is but sixty-five to seventy pounds, where it should be over a hundred. A $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stream is the best that could be put on the top of our high business blocks, and they are too small for effective work. By attaching our steamers to the hydrants we can put on six streams from $\frac{7}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Number 5 would furnish two $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, No. 8 two one inch, and No. 2 two $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. Not enough for a large fire. A 100-foot stand pipe on the hill would give an elevation of 252 feet above Canal street and a pres-